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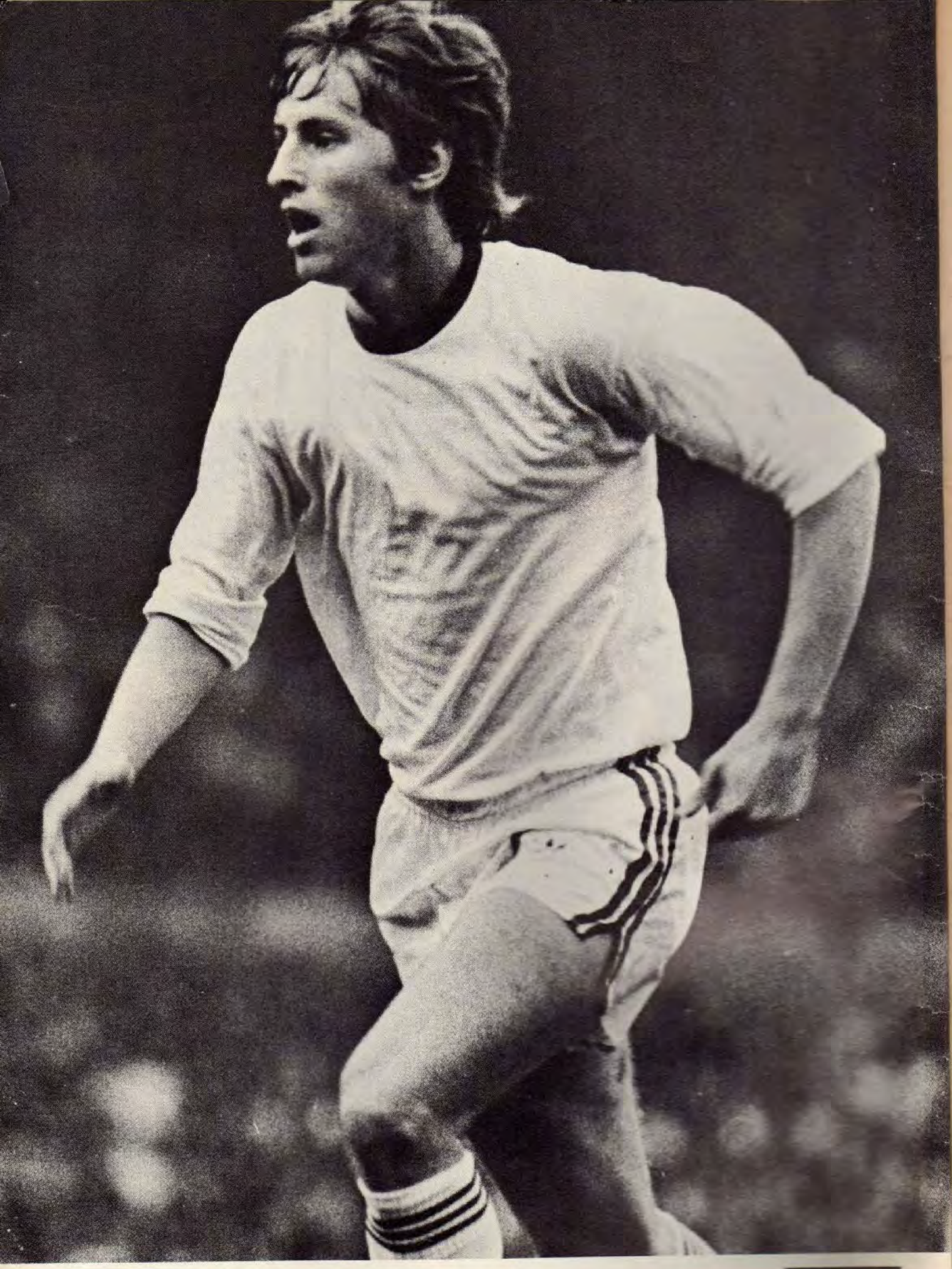
EUROPEAN CUP SPECIAL



VLADIMIR PETROVIC Red Star Belgrade

World SOCCER

European Cups
SPECIAL

The man who walks on water

by Keir Radnedge

FOR THE Man Who Walks on Water, the down-to-earth business of laying his hands on the Champions' Cup should be child's play.

And then how do we all rate Brian Clough?

For several years now he's been one of the most famous personalities in England, his outspoken views and familiar whine making him a gift for every budding Mike Yarwood.

In Europe he remains much of an unknown quantity, the captivating quality of his direct speech generally lost in translation and his ebullient, unpredictable personality shaded behind the prosaic facts and figures of the achievements of his teams.

But what achievements!

In 1977 Nottingham Forest scraped their way into the First Division with a points total which wouldn't have been enough if they had left their surge just one more year.

Yet in 1978 they took the League title and the League Cup, toppling Liverpool for the right to hold both trophies. Now again they are League Cup holders, the first team to retain the trophy, and along the way also maintaining the consistency to put together a 42-game record unbeaten run in the League.

But that wasn't enough. Forest knocked holders Liverpool out of the Champions' Cup and appear destined to keep the trophy in England when they face Bob Houghton's Malmö in Munich in the final on May 30.

It's not that I'm oblivious to the Swedes' strengths, to the well-drilled displays produced at Houghton's demanded behest. It's just that the Champions' Cup means so much to Clough and management partner Peter Taylor that they will move heaven and earth to ensure all the right conditions for victory in the Olimpiastadion.

It's a final which provides stark evidence of the changing nature of football. No Swedish team has ever been this far, and no team has ever produced the remarkable leap shown by Forest, of rushing in two years from Second Division to the most glamorous night in European soccer.

But then, Clough seems destined to make history. When Forest remarkably overcame Hennes Weisweiler's Köln in their semi-final, it was the first time an English team had won away in Europe after being held at home.

The fledgling Manchester United, their more mature successors, even Liverpool, have been unable to make that claim.

So the final sees a pair of new teams in a match sure to be built into a confrontation between the two English managers — Clough on the one side, and Houghton, the 33-year-old Londoner, on the other. And that too, emphasises the changes in the game.

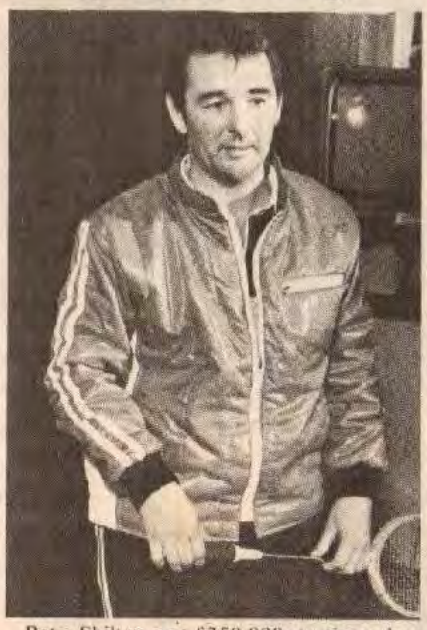
Once it was the players who were all-important. Now the balance has swung the other way. The players have become pawns in the chess game plotted by their masters.

Forest's officials, players and fans may well have noticed ample evidence in Cologne. Weisweiler is by far the biggest name around. It is to Weisweiler that sponsors go with their cash and their products, rather than to his players.

So Clough too, larger than life, is far bigger than any of his players — bigger than even Trevor Francis, the record £1.15 million buy from Birmingham in February and who is likely to make his first-ever appearance in European competition in Munich.

Francis was ineligible for the quarter final against Grasshoppers of Zurich, and the semi-final with Köln but Clough is unlikely to rely on sentiment and keep the men who took Forest all the way when the ultimate prize is at stake over the last 90 minutes.

For one thing Clough is a realist. He well knows the deficiencies in his squad. That's why he has never been afraid to buy. And thanks to the transfer market wisdom of Taylor, all his buys have been successful.



Peter Shilton cost £250,000 at a time when it appeared his teenage promise was fading; now Clough is happy to call him the best goalkeeper in the world. Kenny Burns was the angry young man, the troublesome tearaway, at Birmingham; but for £150,000 Clough bought a man who barely a year later was being hailed Footballer of the Year. Another £150,000 went on David Needham, the central defender with an eye for goal, and even though Forest are planning a new stand, Clough has no inhibitions about paying out for any player he feels will be right for his magical mix.

Forest are 114 years old, but they've never known success like it before, and it's unlikely they've ever known a man like it.

But Clough is human and human beings make mistakes, even if — as with Clough in Cologne — it sometimes appears they can become virtually immune.

In much of the build-up to Munich so much emphasis will be placed on Clough's bustle towards his destiny that the opponents on the night, Malmö, are likely to become almost forgotten.

But, as Bob Houghton said after learning from a radio commentary that he would tangle with Forest in Munich: "We are not afraid of Brian Clough and Forest. And though we may not be well known, neither are we novices."

That's obvious just from a glance at the team who have won the Swedish league three times in the past five years and been runners-up on the other two occasions.

There is a weight of experience in World Cup squad defenders Roy, Roland and Magnus Andersson and Ingmar Erlandsson. In fact, that's where Houghton's only problem over his line-up could lie — deciding which of his back men to leave out.

There might even be a place in Munich for 36-year-old Krister Kristensson. The veteran centre back retired at the end of the last Swedish season in the autumn but hung on while the team progressed through Europe. He played a solid role in the rearguard action which defied FK Austria in the Prater, too.

But I think Houghton will settle for Roy Andersson and newcomer Kent Jönsson in the centre of the line of four who manipulate the strict offside trap on which Malmö base their game.

Houghton's biggest disaster is the absence of Bo Larsson to control his side on the big night. Larsson, the lanky striker-turned-general-turned-sweeper could have been a mightily important player in Munich. With his skill, experience from 70 internationals, his vision and accurately and beautifully-weighted passes he was the one Swede who could have turned the game upside down.

Sadly Larsson will not be there. He damaged knee ligaments against Wisla Krakow in the first leg of the quarter final and is out until September. His absence is a sore blow.

That's not to denigrate the ability of the men who will be playing — Anders Ljungberg and his left-foot skills, the redoubtable Staffan Tapper in midfield, and the exciting attacking skills of left-sided newcomer Jan-Olof Kinvall. But if Malmö had any sensible aspirations of vaulting to victory,

● *Continued overleaf*

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COVER PICTURE

John Robertson of European Cup Finalists Nottingham Forest is featured on this month's cover, playing against QPR.

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FOREST FAVOURITES BUT THEY MUST HEED LESSON

● *Continued from previous page*

then Larsson would have been the springboard.

Houghton may have a secret weapon in new man Sanny Aslund. He signed from AIK Stockholm before the February 15 deadline which would have kept him out of the final.

However because of a Swedish rule that a signing must wait two months before he qualifies to play for his new team there was confusion over whether Aslund's goal potential might aid Malmö's quest to become the first Scandinavian team to land a European crown.

Even if Aslund is cleared, I think it extremely unlikely Houghton would play him from the start. Aslund hasn't had the time or opportunity to settle in alongside his new team-mates in competitive soccer and if he does appear it will be a calculated gamble as substitute.

Malmö are not bringing an entirely new torch into the final however. Individual Swedes have been there before. In 1958 Nils Liedholm captained Milan in unlucky defeat by Real Madrid; in 1969 Kurt Hamrin took a winner's medal, also with Milan; and the following year Ove Kindvall scored Feyenoord's decisive goal against Celtic.

Those days seem a far cry now in a season in which most observers have been wringing their hands at the lowering of standards in the European competitions. It has been the season for surprises. Beveren and unfashionable Fortuna Düsseldorf lit a path in the Cup-winners' Cup, while MSV Duisburg reached the last four of the UEFA Cup while battling desperately to stave off relegation from the *Bundesliga*.

In a year of outsiders Malmö might take some comfort, since they are rank outsiders in Munich.

They go as the first Swedish club to embrace a form of full-time professionalism; they go as excited and refreshing newcomers in a competition where the biggest guns always win the day.

But they go, too, with the merest tremble of apprehension. English football is appreciated and highly rated in Sweden. English league matches are beamed direct onto Swedish TV during their winter close-season and their fans even copy some of the English supporters' chants — right down to singing them in English!

It will hardly cheer Malmö to know that in the euphoria of Liverpool's victory over Brugge at Wembley last year, their manager Bob Paisley warned: "The biggest threat to us next season will be Nottingham Forest."

Convention, tradition, call it what you will, is that the favourites win the trophy. Not many outsiders have finished doing the lap of honour. Benfica in 1961 were the most unexpected victors.

Like Forest now they appeared to come from nowhere to dominate the European stage for several years, winning two finals and losing three more. Like Forest they believed in attacking football.

If I compare Forest with Benfica it is not because at this stage I think Forest are going to remain at the pinnacle as long as Benfica but because of the similarity in attitudes.

Forest are welcome to the European Cup Final. Last year Liverpool were roundly criticised for the dull nature of their victory over the frustrating journeymen of Brugge. But Forest don't have that sort of Liverpool patience in them.

Their attacking propensities went on display almost too readily in the 3-3 draw with Köln. But those qualities, the love of attack and the desire to entertain while winning, are rare.

I'm not saying Forest are that wonderful a team. I think they will win in Munich and I believe they can do so with verve.

They may hold the Cup only a matter of months before someone puts them through the hoop with which they trapped Liverpool. But Forest can make the first Champions' Cup Final in West Germany for 20 years a memorable occasion.

Disappointing teams these may for those few who believe the Champions' Cup should be reserved for the aristocrats such as Real Madrid, Milan, Inter, Ajax, and Co. But if football is to progress and catch the interest of new generations then new names are needed, new winners, new losers.

Peter Taylor said after the staggering victory in Cologne that "this is the greatest night of our careers. To have reached this final is superior even to winning league championships."

Peter Shilton.

HOW THEY GOT THERE

Nottingham Forest

2-0 h v Liverpool (Birtles, Barrett)
0-0 a v Liverpool
Forest 2-0 on agg

2-1 a v AEK Athens (McGovern, Birtles)
5-1 h v AEK Athens (Needham, Woodcock, Anderson, Birtles 2)
Forest 7-2 on agg

4-1 h v Grasshoppers (Birtles, Robertson, Gemmill, Lloyd)
1-1 a v Grasshoppers (O'Neill)
Forest 5-2 on agg

3-3 h v 1st FC Köln (Birtles, Bowyer, Robertson)
1-0 v 1st FC Köln (Bowyer)
Forest 4-3 on agg

Malmö FF

0-0 h v Monaco
1-0 a v Monaco (Kinnvall)
Malmö on agg

0-0 a v Dynamo Kiev
2-0 h v Dynamo Kiev (Cervin, Kinnvall)
Malmö 2-0 on agg

1-2 a v Wisla Krakow (Hansson)
4-1 h v Wisla Krakow (Ljungberg 3, Cervin)
Malmö5-3 on agg

0-0 a v FK Austria
1-0 h v FK Austria (Jansson)
Malmö 1-0 on agg

PAST WINNERS

1956 — Read Madrid 4, Reims 3
1957 — Real Madrid 2, Florentina 0
1958 — Real Madrid 3, Milan 2 (aet)
1959 — Real Madrid 2, Reims 0
1960 — Real Madrid 7, Eintracht Frankfurt 3
1961 — Benfica 3, Barcelona 2
1962 — Benfica 5, Real Madrid 3
1963 — Milan 2, Benfica 1
1964 — Internazionale 3, Real Madrid 1
1965 — Internazionale 1, Benfica 0
1966 — Real Madrid 2, Partizan 1
1967 — Celtic 2, Internazionale 1
1968 — Manchester United 4, Benfica 1 (aet)
1969 — Milan 4, Ajax Amsterdam 1
1970 — Feyenoord 2, Celtic 1 (aet)
1971 — Ajax 2, Panathinaikos 0
1972 — Ajax 2, Internazionale 0
1973 — Ajax 1, Juventus 0
1974 — Bayern Munich 4, Atletico Madrid 0 (replay)
1975 — Bayern Munich 2, Leeds 0
1976 — Bayern Munich 1, Saint-Etienne 0
1977 — Liverpool 3, Borussia Mg 1
1978 — Liverpool 1, Brugge 0.

THE TEAMS

Nottingham Forest	Age	Caps
Goal		
PETER SHILTON	29	26
Defence		
VIV ANDERSON	22	1
LARRY LLOYD	29	3
KENNY BURNS	25	12 (Scot)
FRANK CLARK	35	—
MIDFIELD		
MARTIN O'NEILL	26	27(NI)
JOHN McGOVERN	31	—
TREVOR FRANCIS	24	12
Attack		
TONY WOODCOCK	22	3
GARRY BIRTLES	22	—
JOHN ROBERTSON	26	2
Reserves		
Chris Woods (GK)	19	—
Colin Barrett	26	—
Dave Needham	29	—
Ian Bowyer	28	—
Archie Gemmill	32	32 (Scot)
John O'Hare	35	13 (Scot)

Malmö FF	Age	Caps
JAN MÖLLER	25	—
ROLAND ANDERSSON	29	19
KENT JÖNSSON	23	—
ROY ANDERSSON	29	20
INGMAR ERLANDSSON	21	7
MAGNUS ANDERSSON	23	6
STAFFAN TAPPER	30	36
ANDERS LJUNGBERG	31	8
JAN-OLOF KINNVALL	18	4
TORE CERVIN	28	1
TOMMY HANSSON	22	1
Arne Akesson (GK)	30	—
Krister Kristensson	30	38
Claes Malmberg	26	—
Tommy Larsson	27	4
Sanny Aslund	26	12
Tommy Andersson	28	—

European Cup Final — Munich — May 30

Cup Winners Cup Final — Basle — May 16

Barcelona have the pedigree

TEN years ago Barcelona went to Basle to face Slovan Bratislava in the final of the Cup-winners' Cup (writes Keir Radnedge).

They had the tradition, the European experience and the talent to add another crown to their several victories in the Fairs' Cup. But something went wrong.

It had been a funny season. All the Iron Curtain teams had pulled out in protest at a new first round draw made because of Western European anger at the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

Yet the Czechoslovaks stayed in and it was unfancied Slovan Bratislava, inspired by Ludo Cvetler, who turned Barcelona over 3-2 in Basle.

Unpleasantly for the omen-conscious Spaniards, there are more shadows of 1969 than the fact that the Slovan defeat was exactly 10 years ago in the same place.

For a start this has also been an odd season though not because of politics. The Cup-winners' Cup is, in terms of talent, the weakest of the three European competitions. Yet there are always a few teams with a name, with outstanding players. This time around there were the holders Anderlecht, Internazionale, and Barcelona themselves.

But all the attention went on the Belgian part-timers from Beveren. And while they progressed in their unfancied way to the semi-finals, disposing of the awkward customers from Inter, so Barcelona slipped quietly through to meet — and beat — them.

Yet in a competition in which the outsiders became kings there can be little comfort for Barcelona in knowing that their opponents in the final on May 16 are the unsung West Germans from Fortuna Düsseldorf.

Achieved double

Fortuna can't even claim to be German Cup-winners. They owe their participation to the fact that Köln achieved the double last year and naturally aimed for the Champions' Cup, leaving Fortuna a valuable consolation.

Not that they have been conspicuously successful in trying to make the most of their fortune.

In the first round they were held at home in the second leg by Craiova after squeaking a win away; in the second round they very nearly threw away a three-goal start against Aberdeen; in the quarter finals it was only an away goal which brought victory from two draws against Servette; and in the semi-finals Fortuna could so easily have collapsed at home against Banik Ostrava.

All of which hardly suggests that Fortuna stand comparison with Barcelona, who had to beat both Anderlecht and the willing warhorses of Ipswich before tangling with and overcoming the inflated legend of Beveren.

Running one's eye through the teams is enough to confirm that Barcelona are by far the more attractive, more skilful and experienced. With a sprinkling of World Cup men including the Spanish league's top scorer in Hans Krankl, they appear to have more than enough fire power to see the Germans to speedy defeat.

But individual ability is not everything. And it's in teamwork and the diligent preparation of low-profile coach Dieter Tippenhauer that Fortuna score.

Tippenhauer is only 35, coming to an end of his first season in a major post. Previously he was second in command to Dietrich Weise at Eintracht Frankfurt as well as Fortuna and he has skilfully built a durable team unit around four key players.

Most important is Gerd Zewe, the 28-year-old sweeper who has at this late stage of his career become a fixture in the national team. Zewe is team captain as well as defensive controller, and his combination with stopper Gerd Zimmermann could seriously frustrate Krankl and the Argentine-born Spanish international Juan Carlos Heredia who form Barsa's main strike force.

In attack Fortuna have two men to trouble the Spaniards. One is Wolfgang Seel, a right winger who made the World Cup 40, while the other is the most exciting player to emerge in the Bundesliga this season, Klaus Allofs.

Despite playing from midfield Allofs is, as I write, equal top scorer in the league with 16 goals as Fortuna hold a modest halfway position.

But sharp and skilled as he is, it's hard to believe he alone can outwit Migueli, Olmo and Co — tough opponents all and rugged on occasions too — often enough to counteract the openings Johan Neeskens will be making in one of his last games for Barcelona.

The Spaniards — three time winners and once runner-up in the Fairs Cup, nine times league champions, 18 times domestic cup winners, once runners-up in both Champions' and Cup-winners Cups — appear to have more than just their pedigree going for them!

THE TEAMS

Barcelona: Pedro Artola — Rafael Zuviria, Miguel Migueli, Antonio Olma, Jesus De la Cruz — Johan Neeskens, Jose Sanchez, Juan Manuel Asensi — Juan Carlos Heredia, Hans Krankl, Carlos Rexach. Coaches: Jose Torres and Joaquim Rise.

Fortuna Düsseldorf: Jorg Daniel — Heiner Baltes, Gerd Zewe, Gerd Zimmermann, Joseff Weikl — Dieter Brei, Rudi Bommer, Hubert Schmitz — Wolfgang Seel, Klaus Allofs, Ralf Dusend. (Coach: Dieter Tippenhauer).

HOW THEY GOT THERE

Barcelona: 3-0 1-1 v Schachtor Donetsk — 0-3 3-0 (4-1 ps) v Anderlecht — 1-2 1-0 v Ipswich — 1-0 1-0 v Beveren.

Fortuna: 4-3 1-1 v Un. Craiova — 3-0 0-2 v Aberdeen — 0-0 1-1 v Servette — 3-1 1-2 v Banik Ostrava.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1960 Fiorentina. 1961 Atletica Madrid. 1963 Tottenham. 1964 Sporting Lisbon. 1965 West Ham. 1966 Borussia Dortmund. 1967 Bayern Munich. 1968 Milan. 1969 Slovan Bratislava. 1970 Manchester City. 1971 Chelsea. 1972 Glasgow Rangers. 1973 Milan. 1974 Magdeburg. 1975 Kiev. 1976 Anderlecht. 1977 Hamburg. 1978 Anderlecht.

Hans Krankl (left) of Barcelona against Ipswich Town.

European Cups
SPECIAL

UEFA Cup Final — May 9 and 23

RED STAR —AT LAST!

by Keir Radnedge

IT'S BEEN a long time but at last, after more than 20 years of trying, Red Star Belgrade have reached a European final.

And of all three finals in the European club sphere this is the hardest to gaze into.

The reason is that both teams have established something of a reputation as being better able to get a result away from home than in front of their own fans.

Red Star's progress illustrates the point only too well. Against Gijon, Arsenal and West Bromwich a 1-0 win in the first leg proved sufficient. And after sneaking through each tie 2-1 on aggregate they had the nerve to steal a semi-final victory over Hertha Berlin on the away goals rule!

Football rests largely on tradition and for that reason alone it's good to see Red Star in the final. A club with a history of great players and a dramatic role in the fledgling Champions' Cup, they present an awkward threat to Borussia's chance of regaining the UEFA Cup they first won in 1975.

May 9 and May 23 have been set for the games, played on the home and away basis as usual, and which will see Alan Simonsen make his farewell to Borussia before signing for Barcelona.

Simonsen destroyed Red Star both home and away in the Champions' Cup two years ago, but the Slavs won't have forgotten him as they bid to become only the second team from Yugoslavia to land a European trophy.

Dynamo Zagreb, in the old Fairs' Cup, were the first to wear a crown, though Partizan Belgrade — Red Star's great rivals — reached the Champions' Cup final in 1966.

Both clubs have problems. Red Star's comprise the usual fears about the debilitating effect of the summer exodus for Western Europe or the United States, and the nagging hamstring injury of midfield director Vladimir Petrovic.

Borussia's concern is to successfully maintain their rebuilding programme while the future of coach Udo Lattek hangs in the balance.

Injury and suspension have plagued Red Star this season. Hardly a tie has gone past without their having to patch up some gap because of one yellow card too many or a pulled muscle. Indeed, in the first leg of the semi-final against Hertha Berlin they had to call in five reserves and bring on a 16-year-old as substitute during the match!

They should be better placed for the final, but will worry about Petrovic. Once an outside left, he has developed into Yugoslavia's best forward. But while Red Star can surround him with outstanding midfielders such as Borovnica and Blagojevic, no player could be more vital to the effort against Borussia than Petrovic.

He directs, he organises. Without him the sharp counter-attacking ploys based on the speed and skill of Savic and Sestic are far reduced in effectiveness.

As for Borussia, many of the familiar names are likely to be there, including West German World Cup skipper Berti Vogts, who has just returned after completing his recovery from a leg break in a cup game at the start of the season.

With the one-eyed Hannes in the middle of defence, Simonsen up front and the tireless Danner and Kulik doing the donkey work in midfield, Borussia are in with a fine chance of scoring a second UEFA Cup win in three finals in six years.

But apart from wondering how they will fill the Simonsen gap, more important as far as the long-term is concerned is the probable departure of coach Udo Lattek.

He joined Borussia in the summer of 1975 after Hennes Weisweiler left for Barcelona. Lattek proved ideal for the job, but his contract expires at the season's end and he and the club have failed to reach anything remotely resembling an agreement on a new deal.

In the meantime the show must go on. Jupp Heynckes, once the goal-scoring terror of Europe, is sitting on the bench now as Lattek's assistant but in his place on the field is the highly promising Ewald Lienen and Borussia could grab several goals.

If they do then I believe the tie will be theirs. Red Star rely too heavily on the sharp break to catch opponents unawares, but the scope is vastly reduced when the other team are putting two or three goals past you.

I think Borussia will go for goals, in the knowledge that Red Star built their team to contain rather than chase. But though I think Borussia the more likely winners I wouldn't bet against Red Star sneaking away with the prize.

After all they have given to European club football, you couldn't begrudge them.

THE TEAMS

Red Star Belgrade: Aleksandar Stojanovic — Nikola Jovanovic, Dragan Milotevic, Zoran Jurisic, Zlatko Krmpotic — Slavoljub Muslin, Vladimir Petrovic, Cvijetin Blagojevic, Zdravko Borovnica — Milos Sestic, Dusan Savic. (Coach: Branislav Stakovic.)

Borussia Mg: Wolfgang Kneitl — Berti Vogts, Wilfried Hannes, Frank Schafer, Norbert Ringels — Dietmar Danner, Christian Kulik, Wilfried Schafer — Allan Simonsen, Rudi Gores, Ewald Lienen. (Coach: Udo Lattek.)

HOW THEY GOT THERE

Red Star: 2-5 4-1 v Dynamo E. Berlin — 1-0 1-1 v Gijon — 1-0 1-1 v Arsenal — 1-0 1-1 v West Bromwich — 1-0 1-2 v Hertha W. Berlin.

Borussia: 5-1 2-1 v Sturm Graz — 0-0 2-0 (aet) v Benfica — 1-1 4-2 v Slask Wroclaw — 1-1 3-1 v Manchester City — 2-2 4-1 v MSV Duisburg.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Fairs' Cup: 1958 Barcelona. 1960 Barcelona 1961 Roma. 1962 Valencia. 1963 Valencia. 1964 Zaragoza. 1965 Ferencvaros. 1966 Barcelona. 1967 Dynamo Zagreb. 1968 Leeds. 1969 Newcastle. 1970 Arsenal. 1971 Leeds.

UEFA Cup: 1972 Tottenham. 1973 Liverpool. 1974 Feyenoord. 1975 Borussia Mg. 1976 Liverpool. 1977 Juventus. 1978 PSV Eindhoven.

LATE NEWS

JOHAN CRUYFF'S on-off flirtation with New York Cosmos took a new turn after four days of talks on a one-year contract worth £500,000 to the Dutch superstar.

Cruyff, who retired last year after five seasons in Spain with Barcelona, had said that he would never return to competitive soccer.

But recent business losses appear to have forced the 32-year-old star of Ajax in their European Cup heyday to think again about the bait Cosmos have been dangling before him for the past 12 months.

It appeared that Cruyff's talks with Cosmos centred on a one-year contract with an option for a second season in the United States.

DESPITE earlier fears, Argentina aim to send their strongest team to face Holland in the World Cup Final repeat in Berne on May 22.

The match is being staged to mark FIFA's 75th anniversary and there had been fears that it would prove a huge flop.

However towards the end of April the Argentine FA woke up to the prestige nature of the match and sent cables out to obtain the release of their foreign-based stars.

Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa of Tottenham, Mario Kempes with Valencia and Daniel Bertoni at Sevilla were all subject to 'release them' pleas, as was Alberto Tarantini.

The World Cup-winning left back will be no problem however, since as the AFA cable was being sent to Birmingham, so Talleres of Cordoba were buying him back for £200,000.

Confirmations were soon obtained that Ardiles, Villa, Kempes and Bertoni will be allowed to join the squad manager Cesar Menotti had already selected for the rest of the European tour.

The only member of the World Cup Final team not bound for Berne is centre back Luis Galvan, a new club-mate of Tarantini with Talleres.

Goalkeeper Ubaldo Fillol had resolved his contract dispute with River Plate by the time Menotti came to confirm his squad for Europe.

European Cups
SPECIAL

The semi finals

CHAMPIONS' CUP
Semi-finals, first legs
(April 11)

Nottingham Forest 3 (Birtles 28, Bowyer 53, Robertson 63)
1st FC Köln 3 (Van Gool 6, Müller 20, Okudera 81)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 40,804. **Ref:** Garrido (Portugal).

An incredible game on Forest's mud trap of a pitch — referee Garrido only passed it with some reluctance — ended with both teams confused about whether to laugh or cry.

Neither side were at full strength. Forest were without the suspended Viv Anderson, the unfit Kenny Burns and the ineligible Trevor Francis, while Köln missed midfield general Heinz Flohe. But with all the drama induced by the English and West German champions no one gave a second thought to their absences.

The story of the game is briefly told. Köln went 2-0 up in 20 minutes as Forest were caught out by their own attacking exuberance. Yet Brian Clough's team hit back to lead 3-2, only to have their hopes dimmed by a late equaliser from Japanese substitute Yasuhiko Okudera.

A goal was almost overdue by the time the first arrived in the sixth minute. Jürgen Glowacz, deputising for Flohe, sent in Van Gool for a shot which sneaked in via Peter Shilton and then a post. The second goal wasn't long in following. This time, minutes after Dave Needham had headed against the Köln bar, Forest were sunk by the brisk manner in which the Germans pounced on a passing error by John McGovern. Herbert Neumann ran the ball up to the halfway line, and Van Gool took on the chase to lay on a simple opportunity for Müller, who this time made no mistake.

Left back Ian Bowyer was another Forest man foiled by the woodwork, but in the 28th minute one goal was pulled back.

Birtles forced a corner on the left and was quickly back into position to head past Harald Schumacher when Larry Lloyd nodded over John Robertson's cross.

In the second half Forest reshuffled their pack because of injury to Scotland midfielder Archie Gemmill. Frank Clark, the 35-year-old ex-Newcastle veteran, appeared at left back, releasing Bowyer to move upfield, and Bowyer it was who drove in the equaliser after Robertson cut in past Konopka and panicked the defence with his cross.

Köln were beginning to look perplexed by the Forest fire, and after Müller — back in defence — miskicked, Schumacher saved brilliantly from McGovern before Robertson converted Birtle's cross from the right with a wonderfully brave diving header.

But Hennes Weisweiler still had an ace up his sleeve. He pulled off Glowacz to send on Okudera, and within 60 seconds of his arrival the Japanese had made it 3-3.

FK Austria 0
Malmö FF 0
Att: 72,000. **Ref:** Jarguz (Poland).

A remarkable result for the Swedes and a vindication of all the work put in by 32-year-old English coach Bob Houghton. While the Austrians spent all the game on the attack with Herbert Prohaska their guiding light, they rarely threatened to pierce the iron-clad Swedish defence ably marshalled by veteran sweeper Krister Kristensson, who delayed his retirement while Malmö remained in Europe.

Even so Malmö, lacking Bo Larsson, couldn't have kept that clean sheet without the fine form of big Jan Möller in goal — his best saves coming from Thomas Parits in the 52nd minute and Walter Schachner in the 68th. Both had been good chances, but perhaps the best of the game was the only one which fell to the Swedes and was wasted — three minutes from time — by Tore Cervin.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP
Semi-finals, first legs
(April 11)

Barcelona 1 (Rexach 66 pen)
Beveren 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 90,000. **Ref:** Carpenter (Ire).

While Barcelona dominated play, as the 14-3 corner counts shows, their fans were impressed enough with the cool, well-mannered organisation of the Belgians to give Beveren a well-deserved ovation at the end.

The hero of the night was goalkeeper Jean-Marie Pfaff, who made outstanding saves from Asensi, Martinez and Rexach in the first half and from Rexach, Migueli and Heredia in the second. Indeed Heredia became so frustrated by the impregnable defence of Beveren that he allowed his temper to run away with him and was lucky not to be sent off before a muscle injury and a broken finger forced his substitution.

With the fans calling for coach Lucien Muller to send on new Spanish cap Carrasco, Barcelona suddenly snatched the all-important goal. Denied a penalty for hands moments before, they were perhaps fortunate to gain an award when Johan Neeskens went down in the box chasing a through pass from Asensi.

Rexach beat Pfaff from the spot for the first goal Beveren had conceded in seven games in Europe thus far this season!

There were bookings for Barcelona's Zuviria and Beveren's Hofkens and the Belgians were as well pleased with the result as the Spaniards were downcast.

Fortuna Düsseldorf 3 (K. Allofs 54, 65, T. Allofs 89)
Banik Ostrava 1 (Nemec 11)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Castillo (Spain)

With Fortuna badly missing defensive ironman Gerd Zimmermann, Banik went ahead after only 11 minutes in the Rheinstadion. Antalik went past Gerd Zewe to lay the goal on a plate for Nemec. More could have followed swiftly.

Fortuna's only first-half threat was a shot from Klaus Allofs, well saved by fit-again Banik goalkeeper Michalik, after the German had wriggled past three defenders.

But in the second half Allofs found the key, each time from the edge of the penalty box. Wolfgang Seel laid on the first, a short Zewe free kick provided the tee for the second.

The Czechs weren't too unhappy, at 2-1 down they were far from out of the tie. But in the dying seconds Thomas Allofs, 20-year-old younger brother of Klaus, and who had come on as substitute, took a cross from the other sub, Lund of Denmark, to volley past Michalik and make Banik's second leg task look suddenly that much tougher.

UEFA CUP
Semi-finals, first legs
(April 11 unless stated)

MSV Duisburg 2 (Worm 46, Fruck 64)
Borussia Mg 2 (Simonsen 63, Lausen 76)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Ericsson (Swe). Played April 10.

A man written off by Borussia's fans as a waste of money, Helmut Lausen, turned out to be the man of the match.

The match sprang to life when Ronnie Worm took advantage of a Hannes error just a minute after the restart. Mistakes abounded, with Borussia a shadow of the team who beat Manchester City in the previous round. It was from a misplaced pass by Fenten that Simonsen equalised, and after a slip by Lausen that Fruck put Duisburg quickly back in front.

Lausen made amends in spectacular fashion, by running half the length of the pitch to provide the goal which gave Borussia justified confidence in their ability to reach their third UEFA Cup Final in six years.

Red Star Belgrade 1 (Savic 6)
Hertha W. Berlin 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 100,000. **Ref:** Ponnet (Pol).

A dull game served only to make the fans regret absent friends. Red Star were without five first teamers (two banned, three hurt) and Hertha without four (two banned, two hurt).

Red Star suffered the most, for until midfield general Vladimir Petrovic was among the spectators, and their paucity of cover was illustrated by the forced introduction of the 16-year-old Jurowsky as a second half substitute for Lukic.

Hertha badly missed the height and command of Uwe Kliemann in the centre of defence, and his absence was felt as early as the fifth minute, when deputy sweeper Forster gave the ball away to Dusan Savic, and Norbert Nigbur was forced to a smart save.

A minute later and it was Erich Beer uncharacteristically misplacing a pass, and this time Savic was on target to score after Borovnica whipped the ball over.

CHAMPIONS' CUP
Semi-final, second legs
(April 25)

1st FC Köln 0
Nottingham Forest 1 (Bowyer 65)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Rainea (Rum).
Forest 4-3 on agg.

It had generally been expected that Köln's achievement in holding Forest 3-3 at the City Ground would provide an easy springboard to the Munich final. But the West Germans had reckoned without the Messianic powers of Brian Clough...

Making several changes to restore the fit Kenny Burns and Viv Anderson, clear of suspension, to his defence, Clough sent out his men ready to weather any storm — and they needed to be well prepared to resist the immediate Köln onslaught.

Yet just before the end of the first half Forest saw the first signs that the game was moving their way. Müller limped off, to be substituted by Flohe, and as the second half opened the tension was laid bare in a nervous little scene over a free kick which brought bookings for both Konopka and O'Neill.

Cullmann, sweeper in the absence of the injured Gerber, had to clear out of his six yard box and a Garry Birtles shot beat Harald Schumacher. But Forest's goal wasn't long in coming. Ironically it was scored by Ian Bowyer, playing only because Trevor Francis was ineligible and Archie Gemmill injured. Robertson's corner was headed on by Lloyd, and Bowyer sent a stooping header into the net despite Zimmermann's despairing bid to cover.

Malmö FF 1 (Hansson 47)
FK Austria 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,239. **Ref:** Wurtz (Fr)
Malmö 1-0 on agg.

Another English manager found a place in Munich when Bob Houghton's men scored a deserved and determined victory over the shot-shy Austrians, last season's Cup-winners' runners-up.

FKA hadn't scored once in any of their away ties, and this was to prove no exception. Even though they had plenty of time to try after Tommy Hansson rose to head in Anders Ljungberg's astute left-wing free kick.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP
Semi-final, second legs
(April 25)

Banik Ostrava 2 (Licka 63, Antalik 88)
Fortuna Düsseldorf 1 (Zewe 27)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Dorslinger (Switzerland).
Fortuna 4-3 on agg.

Yet again these two teams provided an oddly reversed match. Despite home advantage Banik couldn't settle in the first half and instead it was the West Germans who made the running on the slippery pitch, going ahead through sweeper Gerd Zewe.

Banik bounced back after the interval, despite being 4-1 down on aggregate. After twice hitting the bar they pulled one goal back through Licka, but Antalik's second came far too late as Banik surged repeatedly forward in search of a miracle.

Beveren 0
Barcelona 1 (Krankl 89 pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Partridge (Eng)
Barcelona 2-0 on agg.

Barcelona, without regular defenders Olmo and Zuviria because of injury and suspension, had to soak up plenty of pressure from the Belgian part-timers.

But after Beveren had failed to profit from a couple of corners the Spaniards began to venture forward and forced three corners of their own.

Finally, with a minute to go, Baecke pulled down Krankl and Rexach took the penalty and beat Pfaff, but referee Pat Partridge ordered the kick to be taken again. This time it was Krankl who stepped up to score from the spot.

UEFA CUP
Semi-finals, second leg
(April 25 unless stated)

Borussia Mg 4 (Simonsen 43 and 54, Kulik 47, Lienen 82)
MSV Duisburg 1 (Büssers 71)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Wöhrer (Austria). **Played April 24.**
Borussia Mg 6-3 on agg.

Berti Vogts reappeared for his first competitive game since breaking a leg last August in a domestic cup-tie, but Borussia couldn't provide a bright enough opening to greet his return.

Instead they struggled through until just before half-time against their fellow West Germans when Simonsen shot in from 20 yards. Previously Hannes, Ringels, Schäfer and Lienen had all wasted chances either from the edge of the box or close range.

Simonsen's goal made all the difference and after the interval Borussia gained in confidence. Kulik got a second, Simonsen capitalised on a blunder by Jacobs to grab a third and after Duisburg's Büssers netted a consolation, Lienen rounded off the scoring for Borussia.

Hertha W. Berlin 2 (Beer 1, Milefovic own goal 18)
Red Star Belgrade 1 (Milosavljevic 74)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Lattenzi (Italy).
Red Star on away goal – 2-2 agg.

Yet again, as against Arsenal and West Bromwich in the two previous rounds, Red Star sneaked through despite winning only 1-0 at home in the first leg. Yet again, as in those ties, they left it late before scoring the all-important goal which sent them forward.

But when Milosavljevic knocked the ball past Norbert Nigbur it signalled a first appearance in a European final for a club who have long deserved to achieve that piece of history.

FA CUP FINAL preview by Brian Glanville

Game is bala on a knife-ed

"THE first thing we've got to do in the Final," said one of Arsenal's honest coaches, "is to turn up. Last year, we didn't even turn up."

Metaphorically, true enough. Arsenal, in last season's Final against Ipswich, were awful beyond words, so that the East Anglians in the end won practically by default. Even the goal was a present; a perfectly awful lapse by Willie Young, who feebly pushed the ball out to the very feet of Osborne. The gift was instantly accepted.

After the first, drawn, semi-final between Liverpool and Manchester United at Maine Road, Liverpool were overwhelmingly favoured to win the return, and thus confront Arsenal for the third time since the war in a Wembley Cup Final. Arsenal had won the other two; they have never played Manchester United at Wembley.

Now that they do so, the game seems to be balanced on a knife edge. Neither is an especially good team, though United's path to the Final was a great deal more difficult. Arsenal were almost too bad to be true in the absurdly protracted series against Third Division Sheffield Wednesday.

Sympathy

United, perhaps lucky to escape at Tottenham where they took a pasting in the first half and probably gave away a valid goal when Jones challenged Bailey for a ball he'd lost and was penalised, none too comfortable when they drew at Fulham, at least did well to beat Liverpool. This, though neutral spectators were astonished they should turn the trick at Goodison Park, after being outplayed for the whole of the second half.

Bob Paisley, who announced that he deserved to be horsewhipped for foresaking his customary 4-4-2, will expect no sympathy or pity. He himself very properly castigated his defence for the extraordinary way they evacuated the penalty area before Jimmy Greenhoff, on the bounce, headed the only goal (and I think he is to be blamed for persisting, as Ron Greenwood has done with England, with the waning of Emlyn Hughes).

Gary Bailey, the Manchester United goalkeeper, makes a safe catch.

Frank Stapleton heads for goal against Wolverhampton Wanderers

But back to Manchester United, and to Arsenal. United's defence has improved; there is no doubt about that, and still less doubt that there was room for improvement. Gordon McQueen, who should have dominated the centre and eaten high balls, has been quite astoundingly vulnerable; both Fulham and Spurs — in the shape of the tiny Ardiles — took advantage of his absences from the middle. But he and Martin Buchan seem to have got to know each other a little better now; which is just as well, given the potential of Frank Stapleton and Sunderland.

Clumsy

Stapleton is an underrated centre-forward, and one I admire very much. He isn't stylish, he sometimes looks clumsy; but he isn't clumsy, either. In fact he is a thoroughly intelligent, effective, accomplished player who can often surprise you with his skills, has courage to match his strength, turns well if not as electrically as Sunderland — and works with unselfish zeal. For much of last season he did the bulk of Malcolm Macdonald's running, which was one good reason he was so tired by the time the Cup Final came. He should be fresher this time out.

Sunderland is a player who gets goals out of nothing, even when he is not playing well; the mark of the true opportunist. The one he shot against Southampton in the replay at Highbury was among the best I have seen this season: a marvellous turn, then a fulminating right footed shot. What Arsenal lack, and what United certainly have, is someone to go wide on the wings; a fault which has beset them all season. At Wembley, such a a player, given the quanitity of space, is especially important.

United have Stevie Coppell, who is well used to Wembley now and who, after a very poor start against Ireland — and Arsenal's Sammy Nelson — went on to become one of England's most dangerous forwards on the field, second only to Keegan himself.

Nelson's idiotic aberration in the game against Coventry may cost him his place, but in any event I don't think he is capable of keeping Coppell quiet for ninety minutes; any more than is his deputy, young Walford. Pat Rice had a bad day, or evening, against England at Wembley too, and would not find the chugging, persistent Thomas easy to play against. Both Thomas and Coppell run unselfishly and ceaselessly, permitting United the luxury of playing with two wingers.

Superiority

So we come to the midfield; to Liam Brady, in particular, for Arsenal, and to the two quick, clever little men, Lou Macari and Sammy McIlroy, for United — I assume Macari will be there. Arsenal will have, on the whole, superiority in weight of numbers. Much will depend on how Brady, so disappointing a year ago, when he was perhaps not fully fit, plays this time.

It is most unlikely that United will depute a man to follow him around — much the best

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way to subdue him, as the Northern Irish showed when the teams met last year. By the same token, a Brady given space, as England gave it to him in Dublin, is a Brady who can run rampant. He is well abetted by Graham Rix, even if that slim, clever, left footed player somewhat duplicates him in style and approach, and by the solid, muscular, if somewhat pedestrian, Brian Talbot and Price.

These forces seem largely to balance out; but let us not forget that United have their own superb opportunist in Jimmy Greenhoff, a player who has already, with the substantial aid of a deflection, scored the winning goal at Wembley; just as poor Tony Gale's posterior deflected the winning goal at Old Trafford in the Cup replay against Fulham.

I am not at all sure of Arsenal's ability to subdue Greenhoff; of their back four, only the calm, clever, precocious David O'Leary, one of the most talented young defenders in Europe, has any true quality. Put pressure on Arsenal's defence, and it tends to ship water. On the other hand, United's full-backs are of indifferent quality — if Arsenal only had the wingers to exploit them.

Spectacular

In goal, Arsenal have the advantage: or they should have. It is almost unthinkable that Pat Jennings should play as badly again at Wembley as he did for Northern Ireland against England. He has vastly more experience than the inconsistent new United keeper, Bailey, who alternates the spectacular with the fallible; though what United goalkeeper hasn't, in the past decade? Wembley will be a severe test for Bailey, while Jennings, who should have got his bad game out of his system, has been playing there since his youth international days.

Jimmy Greenhoff, the Manchester United striker.

To win, United and Dave Sexton know they must attack the fallible Arsenal defence, even though this may expose them to counter attacks engineered by Brady's sweepingly imaginative passes. I have in the past called United 'The Swing The Bucket Team'

So long as they are in motion, so long as they are on the attack, all is well. Pause for consolidation and caution, as they did, for example, in the first half against Tottenham at White Hart Lane, and the machine creaks horribly.

Stranger

Joe Jordan, probably, will lead their attack. He was a dangerous figure against Liverpool, but I think Arsenal will prove stronger in the air. On the ground, Jimmy Greenhoff will, as I have said, test them severely. It's a game which defies forecast. Traditionally, a team which comes straight back to Wembley after a defeat wins; though United were in 1958 the exception that proved the rule. Munich, however, had wretchedly intervened in the meantime. Now United must hope that they themselves will see to it that history, the history of 1958, is repeated — at the expense of Arsenal.

Graham Rix, the elegant Arsenal midfielder.

Derek Parkin of Wolves (left) in action against Alan Sunderland of Arsenal.

KUSTUDIC IS SOUGHT

MIODRAG KUSTUDIC, centre forward of Hercules, is under English eyes again.

Coventry are the lates club to have shown an interest in the Yugoslav centre forward who, having ended a bleak run in front of goal, ran into trouble with referees.

Kustudic was sent off by referee Tomeo in the 0-0 draw at home to Real Sociedad after a second yellow card offence — for dissent.

* * *

THE CAMACHO saga drags. Real Madrid's long-time injured left back has had a further operation in Paris to try to sort out the knee ligament problem which has prevented his return to football well over a year after his injury in training.

* * *

SPAIN'S World Cup committee for 1982 are already hard at work. Half a dozen top officials recently spent 10 days touring Argentina's stadia and communications centres to see what they could learn from the 1978 organisers. If they reach only the same standard as Argentina they'll have done a good job.

LINE-UPS

FIRST DIVISION LINE-UPS
(As of March 25)

Atletico Madrid: Aguinaga — Marcelino, Eusebio, Ruiz, Sierra — Robi, Alberto, Bermejo — Leivinha, Ruben Cano, Rubio. (Coach: Szusza).

Santander: Damas — Pelayo, Madariaga, Sanudo, Preciado — Macizo, Mantilla, Genupi — Marcos, Quique, Jimenez. (Coach: Yosu).

Hercules: Amador — Rivera, Baena, Giuliano, Ernesto — Cobos, Verde, Juan — Macarias, Kustudic, Charles. (Coach: Joanet).

Real Sociedad: Arconada — Celayeta, Gajate, Contabarria, Olaizola — Alonso, Diego, Zamora — Amiano, Satrustegui, Lopez Ufarte. (Coach: Ormaechea).

Gijon: Castro — Redondo, Doria, Rezza, Condi — Joaquin, Ciriaco, Mesa — Moran, Quini, Ferrero. (Coach: Miera).

Valencia: Manzanedo — Carrete, Botubot, Arias, Cervero — Solsona, Castellanos, Bonhof — Saura, Felman, Kempes. (Coach: Pasieguito).

Huelva: Romero — Sivianes, Isabelo, Navarro, Esparza — Valdes, Villazan, Benito — Lapi, Eulate, Machete. (Coach: Eusebio Rios).

Real Madrid: Garcia Remon — San Jose, Benito, Wolff, Isidro — Stielike, Del Bosque, Garcia Hernandez — Juanito, Jensen, Aguilar. (Coach: Molowny).

Athletic de Bilbao: Iribar — Tirapu, Astrain, Alesanco, Escalza — Villar, Irureta, Sarabia — Dani, Bengoechea, Rojo I. (Coach: Aguirre).

Las Palmas: Carnevali — Gerardo, Felipe, Roque, Hernandez — Brindisi, Jorge, Noly, Felix — Morete, Maciel. (Coach: Monoz).

Burgos: Gorospe — Gomez, Ruiz-Igartua, Navajas, Rubinan — Carreno, Valdes, Chazarreta — Lopez, Portugal, Adorno. (Coach: Arsenio).

Barcelona: Artola — Zuviria, Costas, Olmo, Albaladejo — Neeskens, Tarres, Martinez — Rexach, Kranki, Carrasco. (Coach: Muller).

Zaragoza: Irazusta — Heredia, Antich, Camus, India — Amorrortu, Onaedaerra, Victor — Alonso, Arrua, Juanjo. (Coach: Boskov).

Rayo Vallecano: Hierro — Anero, Ucedo, Tanco, Rocamora — Francisco, Landaburru, Mariano, Marian — Pozo, Alvarito. (Coach: Ed. Gonzalez).

Celta de Vigo: Hortas — Jesus Santome, Juan, Manolo, Canosa — Carlos, Villar, Felix — Sanroman, Paco II, Vava. (Coach: Laureano Ruiz).

Salamanca: D'Alessandro — Pepe, Bustillo, Joaquin, Pedraza — Tonte, Amarillo, Felix, Angel — Juanito, Baez. (Coach: Mesones).

Espanol: Urruti — Lanchas, Verdugo, Molinos, Canito — Longhi, Diez, Osorio — Flores, Fernandez Amado, Maranon. (Coach: Irulegui).

Sevilla: Garcia Fernandez — Juanito, Sanjose, Alvarez, Gallego — Jaen, Scotta, Juan Carlos — Montero, Rubio, Bertoni. (Coach: Carriega).

Atletico Madrid versus Santander in the Spanish first division. Lehivina (striped shirt) and Santander goalkeeper Damas challenge for the ball.

Domingo sacked by Valencia . . .

THEY'RE already playing the opening bars of the Waltz of the Trainers in the Spanish first division.

And it's the men at the top of the tree who are most likely to be shuffled.

Already Valencia's controversial French boss Marcel Domingo has been sacked after 18 months in control. That is hardly surprising, indeed it was remarkable that he hung on so long.

The final nail in the coffin was a 2-0 away defeat by leaders Gijon. The home team could have scored many more goals against a Valencia for whom World Cup men Rainer Bonhof and Mario Kempes were anonymous.

Kempes has claimed only five goals this season after topping the charts in the previous two years in Spain. In this game all he collected was a yellow card for a mistimed tackle, while most of the action went on at the other end of the pitch.

Referee Jimenez Sanchez mysteriously disallowed what seemed a perfectly good goal from new Spain cap Enrique Moran, and then overlooked an obvious penalty after Oscar Ferrero was sent flying.

Marcel Domingo somehow persuaded himself that 1-0 would have been a fairer result, but he was alone in his belief and a day or two later president Jose Ramos Costa relieved him of the trainer's job and appointed general manager Pasieguito as caretaker.

The dismissal of Domingo served a double purpose. First it provided an instant scapegoat for Valencia's fans — four managers have been dismissed in mid-season in the past six seasons — and it also brought to an effective end speculation over Bonhof's future.

At various stages of the season Bonhof had made his dislike of Domingo's methods clear and shortly before the coach was ousted various West German clubs — Köln, Borussia Moenchengladbach and Eintracht Braunschweig included — were drawing up tentative plans for bringing him home.

It was a surprise for many people when Bonhof suddenly announced that he would see out his three-year contract with Valencia, but obviously he had been told that Domingo's departure was only a matter of days.

As I write Valencia are eighth in the table and speculation is building up as to the identity of the likely new man. As I've observed here before, Alfredo Di Stefano is the front-runner.

But Valencia are not the only club where speculation about the manager is rife. Barcelona are another.

Hardly had they won their way into the semi-finals of the Cup-winners' Cup than strong rumours emerged that they were offering Bobby Robson, boss of vanquished Europe rivals Ipswich, a £500,000 two-year contract.

The news threw the north-east of England into consternation since it had been fondly imagined back in Robson's Geordie homeland that he was likely to forsake Ipswich at the season's end in favour of . . . Sunderland on Wearside.

Barcelona vehemently denied any approaches to Robson, but it remains a fact that they have had plenty of opportunities to see him at work. Barcelona also met Ipswich in Europe last season and he met club officials while on a spying mission to their game against Real Madrid earlier this term.

Further, Robson's wide appreciation of the importance of the youth sections of a club is right up Barcelona's street. For far too long they have employed coaches who concerned themselves only with the first team stars, and thousands of pounds were poured into the youth section with almost nothing to show for the investment.

A further reason for speculation about Robson is the fact that Barcelona's French boss Lucien Muller signed only a one-year contract when he took over from Rinus Michels at the end of last season.

Muller's future depends not, however, on whether Robson says Yes or No (or for that matter whether Barcelona decide on the

● Continued on page 33

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USSR

by Terry Bushell

NO GO IN THE SNOW!

NINE matches in nine southern towns of the Soviet Union heralded the start of this year's Soviet League season, the northern areas still being covered in snow and ice. The season ends on November 25.

The first goal in this 42nd Soviet season was scored in Alma-Ata, the capital of the republic of Kazakhstan, by Dynamo Moscow forward Nikolai Latish in the fifth minute against the local Kairat side. The visitors won this match 2-0, Alexander Maksimenkov scoring the second six minutes from the end.

Champions Dynamo Tbilisi, playing at home in their huge Lenin Stadium in front of 65,000 spectators, also began the new season with a win, visitors Lokomotiv Moscow succumbing to a headed goal from last season's Player of the Year Ramas Shengelia.

A few days before the match Tbilisi manager Nodar Akhalkatsi said: "We are fully aware of the difficulties that face us in the coming season. We do not expect any easy games for we know very well that everyone puts up their best performance when playing against the champions."

That these were not idle words was confirmed by Tibilisi's first game. Lokomotiv, who have not won any laurels in recent years and have already been knocked out of this year's Cup competition, nevertheless played with a lot of confidence and determination in this match. Their defence appeared reliable and their attack dangerous at times. They relied solely on counter-attacking however. It now seems to have been established as an unbreakable Soviet tradition that away teams play defensively.

The Dynamo players chose to charge headlong at the massed Lokomotiv defence with individualistic attacks, often hurtling past three or four defenders and then falling from sheer momentum. The most memorable of these charges, as it least ended in a shot at goal, was one by Gutsaev just before half-time. His shot only just missed.

But for a long time after the break it was the visitors who, though attacking far less, created the most dangerous opportunities. Then, as though feeling that a draw was in their pockets, and satisfied with it, they fell back entirely on defence.

Shengelia began to make his presence felt. From the opening minutes of the game the visitors had put a close control on him — but now they began to lose him. First he had the ball in the net for a disputed offside goal: then Kostava took a free kick out on the right, aiming it at the visitors' far post, and Shengelia burst in from behind the defenders' backs to head the ball home with no dispute.

The Lokomotiv players, after their initial disappointment, probably came away from Tbilisi a bit relieved at losing by the respectable score of 1-0 — they lost the corresponding match last year 7-0.

Last year's top scorer, Georgi Yartsev of Moscow Spartak, resumed where he left off, scoring one of his side's goals in a 2-0 win at Neftchi Baku.

None of the three promoted clubs from last season had a win in their first game in the top division. The Kuibishev airforce team, Wings of the Soviets, lost 1-0 at Chernomorets Odessa while SKA Rostov and Dynamo Minsk both had goalless draws, against Dynamo Kiev and Zarya Voroshilovgrad respectively.

It was not a good week for Dynamo Kiev. Cup matches preceded the start of the League season — and the holders Kiev were knocked out.

In a new system (Soviet football officials never seem to tire of tinkering with their League and Cup) 48 teams were split into eight mini-leagues, the winners of which played proper knock-out Cup matches in the quarter-finals. It was here that Kiev were eliminated, losing 1-0 to the Central Army Sports Club. The semi-finals are to be played on June 10 and the Final on August 11.

Through with the army club to the semi-finals are Dynamo Moscow, Dynamo Tbilisi and Second Division side Karpaty Lvov. All the Cup matches, like all the early League matches, were played in the warmer south.

Latish, transferred to Dynamo Moscow from Donetsk Shakhtyor in February, was on target in the Cup as well as opening the scoring in the League. He scored one of the goals in the 3-0 quarter-final win over Moscow Spartak.

Tbilisi went through at the expense of Wings of the Soviets, 2-0, while Karpaty Lvov knocked out a fellow Second Division side, Pamir Dushanbe, 3-1.

Details of opening League matches.

Kairat Alma-Ata 0
Dynamo Moscow 2 (0-1)

Kairat (manager Stanislav Kaminsky): Ordabaev, Kochubinsky (Shadiev 26), Talgaev, Nikitenko, Gostenin, Khisamutdinov (Gorokhovodatsky 46), Nekhty, Sichkaruk, Gurman, Leksin, Yevdokimov.

Dynamo Moscow (manager Ivan Mozer and Viktor Terentyev): Gontar, Lovchev, Nikylin, Makhovikov, Bubnov, Petrushin (Gershkovich 46), Dolmatov, Latish, Yakubik, Maksimenkov, Gazzaev (Novikov 57).

Goals: Latish, Maksimenkov.

Pakhtakor Tashkent 2
Torpedo Moscow 1 (1-1)

Pakhtakor (manager Alexander Kochetkov): Yanovsky, Kulikov, Ashirov, Agishev, Zagumennikh, Korchenov, Churkin, An, Isakov, Fedorov, Bakanov.

Torpedo Moscow (manager Vladimir Salkov): Chanov, Vanyushkin, Zhupikov, Buturlakin, Grachev (Sakharov 58), Petrenko, Suchilin, Vasilyev (Grishin 72), Yurin, Prigoda, Mironov.

Goals: Vasilyev, Mironov (o.g.), An (pen).

SKA Rostov 0
Dynamo Kiev 0

SKA (manager Nikolai Samarin): Radaev, Goncharov, Andpyushchenko (Barketov 61), Bondarenko, Yashin, Gusev (Shchrov 63), Berdiev, Selin, Markin, Bobkov, Andreyev.

Dynamo Kiev (manager Valery Lobanovsky): Romensky, Konkov, Kaplun, Zhuravlev, Zuev, Lozinsky, Demyanenko, Khapsalis (Slobodyan 72), Kolotov, Bessonov, Blokhin.

Dynamo Tbilisi 1
Lokomotiv Moscow 0 (0-0)

Dynamo Tbilisi (manager Nodar Akhalkalsi): Gabelia, Kostava, Kanteladze (Durdiadze 46), Chivadze, G. Machaidze, Daraselia, M. Machaidze, Koridze, Gutsaev, Chilaya (Chelebadze 60), Shengelia.

Lokomotiv (manager Viktor Maryenko): Samokhin, Kalaichev, Aleksandrov, Kamzulin, Solovyev, Kuznetsov, Mikhailov, Zyuzin (Susin 46), Ryakhovsky (Shelest 77), Averyanov, Panteleyev.

Goal: Shengelia.

Chernomorets Odessa 1
Wings of the Soviets 0

Scorer: Shevchenko.

Neftchi Baku 0
Spartak Moscow 2

Scorers: Glushakov, Yartsev.

Ararat Yerevan 2
TsSKA 1

Scorers: Ararat — Saakyan, Minasyan, TsSKA — Chesnokov.

Donetsk Shakhtyor 3
Zenit Leningrad 1

Scorers: Donetsk — Starukhin (2), Fedorenko, Zenit — Kazachenok.

Zarya Voroshilovgrad 0
Dynamo Minsk 0

on the ball

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Stein . . . on the subject of Scotland

by Derick Allsop

THIS time last year the vibrations of Scottish drum beats were reaching every corner of the earth.

We were assured Ally MacLeod and his marauding army needed only to call on that old fighting spirit to carry them triumphantly across the playing fields of Argentina.

It went nothing like that, of course, and now things are changing. Scotland are under new management, operating to a completely different tempo and set of guidelines.

Jock Stein, the man at last in charge, outlined his hopes and intentions at a lunch given in his honour by English football writers in Manchester recently. He also gave his thoughts on wider aspects of the game in Britain and Europe.

Stein wants more constructive football, more patience and less reliance on that famous — or infamous — spirit.

He said: "There are changes that must be made in our game. There are new ways of playing that I'd like to try.

"I'd like to see all players building their game rather than just hitting the long ball from the back, making the forwards fight for it every time. We give the ball away far too much. The lead has got to be given at international level.

"The Press and fans can also help. I'd like to see people writing about the game in a less frantic manner. Let's all calm things a little.

"We hear a lot about Scotland's fighting spirit and it doesn't always help. It can turn referees against them, especially in away games. Their reputation goes before them."

Stein is anxious to play down the importance of the annual ritual against England and bury the old prejudice against Anglos.

"A lot of Scots would have you believe you are successful if you win against England. That will be played down now. I think it can be more important to beat West Germany or Italy.

"And then you find many Scots don't like Anglos. Few in Scotland, for instance, think John Robertson can play. They prefer the Willie Johnston type of winger who throws up the ball for the Joe Jordans. But Brian Clough rates Robertson and he's not a bad judge.

Despite the problems, Stein is optimistic about Scotland's future. "I think we've got the best pool of players among the home nations," he said.

"We've not used them to their best in the past. I feel the team could do more. It could have done better than in the last two World Cups.

"In the past, though, we've made them mountains to climb. Now we've got to keep our feet on the ground. But we've got a good crop of young players and the basis of a good side in the future.

"There are not so many good players in Scotland as there used to be, yet we still have promising youngsters coming through the ranks."

Course

Stein is planning a stage-by-stage trek to the 1982 World Cup but has little confidence in England's ability to stay the course.

He said: "Not many teams who have done well in the European Championship have gone on and done well in the World Cup. You can reach a peak too early. You want to climb steps along the way to '82.

"England failed to qualify for the last two finals and the lessons should be learned. I think England could qualify for the European Championship but I don't fancy them for the World Cup. You have to find your mistakes now, ahead of your time.

"People tend to think you ought to get a squad of 21-year-olds to build for the World Cup, but I think it is more important to get 25-year-olds. Players reach their peak in international football at about 28 or 29."

West Germany's march in the European club competitions this season has blown a few holes in the old boast about the English Football League being the best in the world.

As Stein observed: "It might be the most competitive, but that doesn't mean to say it's the best. Mind you, I am quite confident Forest will win the European Cup.

"I've seen a lot of top teams in England this season and generally the football has disappointed me. There is certainly not as much entertainment as there used to be.

"The emphasis is on not losing a game rather than winning it. One of the big problems, of course, is that so many managers are losing their jobs, so safety is the main consideration.

"Forest and Liverpool have done well, though. The great thing about Liverpool is their consistency. They prove their ability week after week. And, of course, they have Kenny Dalglish!

"I think the Celtic side of the late sixties was probably Britain's best club side. We had more players capable of producing a surprise. But Dalglish also has that quality.

"He is an individualist who can play with other people. That is a rare gift. It is not just a matter of what he does but also what he can draw out of other people.

Kenny Dalglish — highly rated by Jock Stein

"It is often said that he doesn't produce his best for Scotland but they tend to look for too much from him. He has, after all, scored 29 goals in 50-odd games for his country.

Issues

"You need a lot of help up front and Scotland are used to big centre-forwards with the ball thrown up to them. That doesn't suit Dalglish. He would certainly have been my player of the year."

Stein concluded on a couple of controversial issues. On the prospect of 24-team World Cup finals he said: "From the players' and managers' point of view it's better simply because there are more places."

And on the subject of players taking busmen's holidays in America: "I don't approve. Spectators at home are entitled to expect to see them at their best and they can't really do that if they play in summer."

FIVE GERMAN CLUBS IN QUARTER-FINALS

by Arthur Rotmil

A RECORD number of five West German clubs reached the semi-finals of the three European cup competitions, thus confirming the long held view that the *Bundesliga* has a strength-in-depth unrivalled by any other League.

This impressive achievement has surprised even the most ardent fans, but also the experts, for some of the results in the home ties had hardly inspired confidence for the return games. The champions 1.FC Köln (Cologne) took a slender 1-0 lead to Glasgow, but held Rangers comfortably to a 1-1 draw. The disappointment for the Scots should however be tempered by the knowledge that contrary to popular belief such an apparently narrow score is most difficult to overcome.

In this season's European tournaments (up to and including the quarter-finals) eleven teams won their home leg only by 1-0 — yet, ten of them progressed to the next round! Only Rangers turned a 0-1 deficit (v. Juventus) to their advantage, but they couldn't do it against the Germans.

In the Cup Winners' Cup Fortuna Düsseldorf had an unexpectedly tough struggle with the Swiss side Servette drawing just 0-0 at home, but a 1-1 score away in Geneva saw them through. But the most remarkable performances were put up in the UEFA-Cup. Hertha Berlin, in deep financial crisis, forced to sell their best players and under threat of losing their professional licence, drew only 1-1 at home with the powerful Czech League leaders Dukla.

No one gave them a chance, yet they triumphed in Prague by 2-1! MSV Duisburg, threatened by relegation and without a competitive match for nearly three months, because of the freeze-up journeyed to Budapest where they beat Honved by 3-2. Finally Borussia Mönchengladbach completed the astonishing success story by eliminating Manchester City, so that with three West German teams in the UEFA-Cup last four, two had to be paired together. Gladbach in fact were drawn against Duisburg.

Cologne, incidentally, didn't make the hoped for financial killing in the home tie v. Rangers. Instead of the expected 50,000 plus crowd, only 36,000 turned up at the Müngersdorfer stadium, when it became known that the game would be televised live. Cologne reckoned on total receipts of £275,000, but even with the £25,000 TV-fee, they collected just £175,000.

The players were promised a bonus of £2,500 a man if they qualify. And with the semi-final against England's champions Nottingham Forest, another fat pay day was in store for the club. Cologne's manager Hennes Weisweiler was happy to meet Forest then, rather than in the Final, for full-back Anderson was suspended from the first leg, while the "million-pound" forward Trevor Francis was ineligible in the semis.

Borussia Mönchengladbach banked a record £175,000 from the capacity crowd of 35,000 at the Bökelberg ground for the tie v. Manchester City and expected another bumper gate against MSV Duisburg. But on the playing front it appears that Borussia will lose their famous Dane Allan Simonsen, who is, after all, bound for Spain and specifically for Barcelona. The Spaniards are parting with their Dutch World Cup star Johan Neeskens and they intend for Simonsen to form the most lethal striking partnership in Europe — Barcelona already boast Europe's deadliest striker in Hans Krankl, the Austrian who got 41 goals with Rapid last season and won the coveted 'Golden Boot' award; now he is Spain's record goal scorer. Krankl is in my view, together with Rensenbrink, the outstanding footballer in Europe.

Borussia Mg. boosted the prestige of West German football even more, when they beat mighty Liverpool at Anfield (where no team had won this season) by 1-0 in Emlyn Hughes' testimonial match. This result was all the more incredible as only three days earlier Borussia slumped to a 7-1 home defeat by Bayern Munich!

Schalke and Duisburg battle out a Bundesliga match.

Action from a Bundesliga match between Duisburg and Schalke.

In the championship it looks as if the title will be disputed between 1.FC Kaiserslautern, VfB Stuttgart, Hamburger SV and Eintracht Frankfurt. 'A most interesting team is that of Stuttgart of whom Cologne's team chief Hennes Weisweiler says: "This team will dominate European football soon".

The club was founded in 1893 and has experienced the high and the low in its long history. For decades the VfB (Verein für Ballspiele — literally Club for ball games), stood in the shadow of its local rivals, the Stuttgarter Kickers. The rise to prominence began in the 'fifties: In 1950 and 1952 the club won the championship — 1954 and 1958 the DFB Cup. It was admitted to the Bundesliga from the start in 1963. Until 1974 a twelfth place was the worst, a fifth their best position.

But in 1975 VfB were relegated and there were many who doubted their ability to return to the higher grade.

Coach Jürgen Sundermann achieved promotion with a team which surpassed all expectations and excited the masses to such an extent that it registered the Bundesliga record average attendance of 54,000 per match! VfB finished fourth last season and qualified for the UEFA-Cup. Most other clubs would have plunged into the transfer market and tried to buy up every star available.

But in Stuttgart the board headed by its shrewd president Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder acted realistically. They bought the 32-year-old winger Georg Volkert (from Hamburger SV) and Bernd Förster, the brother of their stopper Karl-Heinz from Saarbrücken — both rather cheaply.

Volkert is experiencing a new lease of life, while the best known Stuttgart player Hansi Müller has improved to become an established international at the tender age of 21. But there are other internationals in Stuttgart's ranks: the Yugoslav 'libero' Dragan Holcer (52 caps), the Austrian midfielder Roland Hattenberger (23 caps), and of course Volkert (12 caps).

This season stopper Karl-Heinz Förster has also achieved the break through to the full national side; the full-back Bernd Martin was also called up into the national squad, while winger Walter Kelsch played for the B-team and scored a hat-trick v. Hungary.

Stuttgart are particularly strong at home, where they have not lost (as I write) in the championship since August 31, 1977. Their volatile coach Sundermann has been in trouble with the DFB and UEFA for coaching from the touch line; his own Federation even fined him £750.

Sundermann dropped a bomb shell in mid-March by announcing that he will not renew his contract, but wants to return to Switzerland where he enjoyed a lot of success, both as a player (Servette & Basel) and player-coach (Servette). He has decided (or rather his wife and two boys did!) that he wants to take up the residential permit in Switzerland, which he may have lost by staying away longer than two years. Sundermann has already received a lucrative offer to manage Grasshoppers Zurich.

Another managerial change was contemplated by Bayern Munich who wanted to engage the controversial Austrian Max Merkel. This man who once led the 1.FC Nürnberg to the championship and relegation in successive seasons, has as many admirers as critics.

No wonder that the Bayern players protested against his appointment and even forced club president Wilhelm Neudeker to resign on a vote of no confidence! The Bayern squad led by captain Sepp Maier cast their votes by 16-0 against Merkel. This unprecedented "coup" toppled the once powerful and dictatorial Neudecker in a blazing demonstration of player power.

The sequel to this revolt was provided by the national team manager Jupp Derwall, who sensationally omitted Maier from the squad to play Turkey in a European Championship tie. It was the first time since October 13, 1973 that Maier (who holds 92 caps) was left out. But Derwall explained in a telephone conversation with the player that this was only a temporary omission, because of the upheaval at Bayern which might have affected Mair emotionally!

The team chief certainly had problems, for the key forwards Abramczik and Fischer (both Schalke), were totally out of form so that he left them out. Then Derwall also lost the 'libero' Zewe and midfielder Allofs (both Fortuna Düsseldorf) — a total of five players were thus missing from the regular line up. Fortunately the two Spanish "mercenaries" Bonhof (Valencia) and Stielike (Real Madrid) were available.

In the event, the reshuffled team could find little cohesion and had to be content with a 0-0 draw, just like a month earlier in Malta. The biggest disappointment was the lack of penetration in attack, where Rummenigge (brilliant in League matches) and Borchers (acclaimed as the new star winger), were eventually substituted by Kelsch and Förster respectively, but it made no tangible difference.

Klaus Toppmöller's assertion "I am the best centre forward in Germany", looked hollow, while manager Derwall consoled himself and his listeners with the calculation that his team has gained two away points so far, but as someone pointed out at the Press conference, it also lost two!

The clash with Wales on May 2, at Wrexham, now assumes the dimension of a virtual decider, though it must be remembered that the West Germans will have completed their away programme (and Wales their home fixtures), and can receive their three group rivals at home next autumn.

ITALY

by Keir Radnedge

VICENZA are ready to sell Paolo Rossi — but Fiorentina will not release Giancarlo Antognoni.

That's the latest news from the fermenting world of *calcio* as clandestine talks go ahead on the future of Italy's two most outstanding young players.

League leaders Milan are favourites for 22-year-old Rossi, the boy who exploded to stardom through the World Cup in Argentina. But a lot of complications are likely before a deal goes through.

Vicenza president Giuseppe Farina, the man who carried off the £3 million coup of buying out Juventus' half share in Rossi last summer, does not want to release his grip on his best player.

Half-share

Farina must sell Rossi in order to strengthen other departments of his team. But . . . he wants to sell a half-share only, so that at some future date he can either recall Vicenza's most exciting scorer for years, or sell the other half share to raise still more cash.

Internazionale are rumoured to have made an unofficial offer in cash and players worth nearly £3 million. But councellor Sandro Mazzola denied a bid, presumably on the ground that transfer talks are illegal outside the declared open-market during the close season.

Inter's immediate need however is for a midfield general, so Milan remain most favoured club in the Rossi pursuit. It's fair to assume Juventus may not want to get their fingers burned again, and they have been spying on Roma's Roberto Pruzzo and Roberto Russo, a 20-year-old born in Milan who has scored 10 goals so far in *Serie B* with Varese.

Situation

As for Antognoni, who had been linked with Juventus, there is no chance of a move.

Franco Manni, Fiorentina's *direttore sportivo*, said: "Presidente Melloni has said several times already that as long as he is in charge Antognoni stays. The difference between our situation and that of Rossi is that Rossi plays for a small provincial team of limited means. But we are ambitious and believe we can fulfil those ambitions.

"If we are to do so there is no way in which we could dream of letting our best player go."

But while these clubs dream of the great achievements of tomorrow, it's a very different scene in the lower reaches of the *Serie A*. A pitched battle between the players followed Bologna's 1-0 win over Atalanta in a vital relegation scrap.

The two points moved Bologna within two points of Roma, and put them above Atalanta on goal difference. Atalanta were clearly in no mood to be beaten and were infuriated by Maselli's 57th-minute winner.

Atalanta coach Tita Rota claimed that Maselli had clearly fouled defender Mastropasqua before moving on to shoot past Bodini. So unnerved were Atalanta by referee Paolo Bergamo's decision to allow the goal, that midfielder Giovanni Mei was sent off barely six minutes later for spitting in the face of Bologna forward Vincenzi.

A couple of days later the FIGC's 'hanging judge,' Alberto Barbe, sat in judgment and added to Atalanta's woes by suspending defender Giovanni Vavassori for four games for attacking a Bologna vice-president, Mei for two games and Antonio Rocca for one game. Also banned for one game was Rota and Bologna's long-serving defender Tazio Roversi. Roversi, now 32, joined Bologna in 1963.

Record

Atalanta's grim determination to stay up has landed them with an unenviable record. They have had more players sent off this season than anyone else — eight, starting with Rocca in the first game of the term.

When your luck is out, it is well and truly out and Atalanta have discovered that to their cost.

A few weeks before they went down 2-0 to Perugia but hoped to have the result stood on end *a tavolino* because a bottle sailed out of the crowd and knocked out goalkeeper Bodini. A 2-0 award to Atalanta would have angered Perugia, because they remained unbeaten this season, but Barbe diplomatically ruled that the missile had come from a group of Atalanta fans protesting at Perugia's winning goal and the result stood.

The same day Atalanta and Bologna were slugging it out, Juventus were winning the Turin derby thanks to an 88th-minute goal from Antonio Cabrini. Dropped early in the season by club but not country, Cabrini played thanks to various positional switches to cover for the absence of skipper Giuseppe Furino, and was the best man on the pitch.

Open goal

Poor Pietro Virdis could have put Juve clear much earlier but missed incredibly in front of an open goal.

"He could have done without something like that," said Juve's eminense grise, Gianni Agnelli. "I think even I might have been able to score from that position — *and* with my eyes closed."

Milan meanwhile were being held 0-0 at home by Vicenza, and if anything is going to cost them the championship it will be their uncertain form at home. A week later they went down 1-0 to Napoli in San Siro, allowing Perugia to pull back a little ground, clawing Milan back to a two-point lead.

With six games to go it looked nevertheless as if Gianni Rivera was on his way back to the Champions' Cup. But as coach Nils Liedholm warned: "We've lost the title in the last game before now."

Perugia especially, but also Torino and Juventus, could go on dreaming . . .

AMMONIACI RECORD

PAOLO AMMONIACI of Lazio set a remarkable record in the derby with Roma. He was sent off just 25 seconds after stepping on to the pitch as substitute for D'Amico! His offence? — To pretend he had been punched. And D'Amico hadn't even left the pitch at the time!

DOUBLE trouble for the Boniperti family. Juventus president Giampiero was let off with a caution for his criticism of referees. However, son Giampaolo was banned for three games for striking an opponent during a Juve amateurs match.

HELENIO HERRERA is back in the manager's chair — although officially his role with struggling *Serie B* team Rimini is coaching adviser. HH has been out of management since a heart attack forced him to quit Inter five years ago.

Rossi is for sale but not Antognoni . . .

The BRIAN GLANVILLE column

I'M sorry Gary Birtles wasn't voted Young Footballer of the Year by his fellow professionals. Cyrille Regis is a fine and exciting centre-forward who, like Birtles himself, came out of non-League football to achieve remarkable success, but this season has surely belonged to Birtles. Perhaps if the players could have voted after the League Cup Final — I assume most if not all of the votes were in before it — Birtles would have been elected.

I am not among those who believe that Birtles will be a Nine Days Wonder. Beginning his season with almost astonishing success, whipped out of the obscurity of reserve team football, barely a year after being picked up from Long Eaton for £2,000, he made mincemeat of the Liverpool defence in the European Cup, treated AEK and Grasshoppers as brusquely, then showed that Wembley held no terrors for him by scoring two magnificent goals in the League Cup Final.

It's been said, not without some reason, that he hasn't been corrupted by coaching, that he got to League football too late for his natural propensity to run at defences, take men on, and do the difficult rather than the prosaic and easy thing to be eroded. Maybe.

Like so many outstanding footballers, he doesn't really look like a footballer at all. His physique is undistinguished, he's a knobbly, knees and elbows, figure. His movement isn't particularly fluent, even though he can turn and accelerate with such effect. None of this matters. He just happens to be a God given footballer, a natural goal scorer. Forest are lucky to have him; and how they ever missed him in the first place — not to mention all those other clubs who might have had him — freezes the mind.

Regis, meanwhile, continues to score extraordinary goals, though I am not very sure about him as an international player, after a disappointing under-21 evening in Denmark last autumn, while Alan Devonshire of West Ham has matched the maestro himself, Trevor Brooking, in the London team's midfield.

The son of a professional footballer, Devonshire was another who drifted outside the League, played in the Isthmian Championship for Southall, and when he began training with West Ham, found it so hard at first that he vomited, and had to return home on his way to the training ground for his second dose of it. You wouldn't think so now; this pale, slight young man simply never stops running, and he is full of intelligence and skill, besides.

English club managers tend to say that they are looking outside the League for players now because there is such a general shortage of them. I am inclined to think such players were there all the time and that only the silly old shibboleths of the League clubs — sign on at 15 and give your life to the game — prevented them from being found. Not every non-League hero will become a hero of the League; as Millwall found when they signed Chris Kelly from Leatherhead. But many teams, Charlton Athletic among them, are finding it profitable to fish in non-League waters. The penny should have dropped years ago, back in 1970, when Steve Heighway came straight from amateur football with Skelmersdale into the Liverpool first team, to glitter in the First Division.

IS this a record? The Italians claim that it is; and who would deny them? In the Roman derby game last March between Roma and Lazio, the Lazio substitute, Ammoniaci, was sent off the field not only before he had even kicked a ball, but before play had even restarted!

It happened in the 89th minute of a contentious, controversially refereed and ill tempered game. According to the Roma midfield player, Boni, Ammonicci had been abusing Roma from the bench throughout the game. With Lazio winning by 2-1, Martini, their defender, booted the ball high out of play. Francisco Rocca, Roma's international back, ran up to reproach him, and had his face slapped for his pains.

It was at this moment that Lazio decided to send Ammoniaci on as substitute. He ran on to the field, hurled himself over Boni's leg, and was instantly sent off by the referee for simulating a foul. The ball was still dead!

A paranoiac outburst from the spokesman of the African Confederation needs putting into perspective. As in many such cases, there are elements of truth amidst the fiction, of realism amidst the delusions of persecution.

UEFA are seen as the persecutors, since they have threatened to take action if they don't get their way over the new disposition of the 24 team (ugh!) World Cup. Neatly turning, or trying to turn, UEFA's arguments against them, the Africans point out that if UEFA base their case on the fact that they have more active footballers than any other Federation, why do they object to the fact that the Africans have more votes than anybody else in FIFA? It must be racism, there spokesman concludes.

I don't think it's anything of the sort, and I find his argument quite false. No one is more cognizant than I of the immense contribution African players have made to the game. What would Benfica and Portugal have been in their great era of the 1960s without the likes of Eusebio and Coluna? What would the French defence have been in Argentina without the superb Marius Trésor, from Guadeloupe? The French Championship, indeed, is full of dazzling Africans, but the fact alas remains that the parts are infinitely greater than the whole. African football reminds me of the old joke that South America is the Continent of tomorrow, but tomorrow is always a fiesta.

The Africans, moreover, scarcely distinguished themselves with their corrupt and biddable behaviour over the election to the FIFA Presidency of Joao Havelange of Brazil. My SUNDAY TIMES colleague Keith Botsford wrote at the time of the election in Frankfurt of 1974 that small brown envelopes were disappearing into large black hands. One country, one vote has proved an unfortunate principle in FIFA, where it would have been much more sensible to have voted by Confederations, giving UEFA the biggest numerical vote, South America the second largest.

In the meantime, it is silly for the Africans to cry racism. Let them prove themselves on the field, as international teams, as splendidly as so many of their players have proved themselves individually; then they will have a decent case.

TO shout or not to shout? I have been following with great interest the disagreement between Eric Batty and Sir Stanley Rous. Like Eric, I have led a double life between reporting football on Saturdays, playing it on Sundays. If I may equivocate, it seems to me that there is shouting and shouting. In moderation, and used with intelligence, surely it can do nothing but good. To shout, "Man on!" when a colleague is about to be challenged by an opponent he cannot see, to shout, "Turn!" when, his back to the play, he has no opponent near him, is surely common sense.

There are two kinds of shouting I deplore. One is recrimination, the other may be defined in terms of greed. To abuse a colleague who has made a mistake serves no positive purpose; he knows what he has done, and the shout could simply demoralise him. To shout constantly – or at all – for the ball when you are not in a good position to get it is childish and self-defeating.

But surely any player is delighted to get good advice, most of all from an experienced team mate? I remember the present NA-SL Commissioner, Phil Woosnam, telling me in his West Ham days how important it was to the team to have one who kept shouting such counsel as Noel Cantwell did. Such players, he thought, were essential.

"What does it matter," I seem to remember Phil saying, "as long as you've got somebody shouting." And Phil, rara avis in those remote days, was a B.Sc!

I CAN DREA

No time-wasting, tactical fouling or defensive tactics

LESLIE VERNON —IN CUCKOO LAND?

WATCHING football, professionally or otherwise, has been more of a chore than an enjoyment this season. One 'dour struggle' follows another, practically indistinguishable from each other as the combatants strive manfully to prevent the opposition from 'playing' rather than make much of an attempt to play themselves.

I have seen scores of games in which there were not more than two or three direct shots at goal during the entire tedious ninety minutes. Fluent passing movements have become so rare, that whenever three consecutive passes — not necessarily forward ones — enable a team to retain possession, the crowd goes into an ecstasy of delight.

'Effort' has replaced artistry, 'getting a result' is more important than entertainment, stopping the opposition by fair or foul means are accepted as the 'professional' norm.

There are exceptions, of course, the League Cup Final was highly enjoyable, West Bromwich had a purple patch when they managed to combine flair with the more traditional British virtues.

Sadly, this malaise is not confined to England only — I am just as disappointed when I watch foreign teams in action. The Ipswich v. Barcelona Cup Winners' Cup tie at Portman Road illustrated perfectly (if that's the word?) the current sickness of football. A team parading such expensive talent as Krankl, Neeskens, Heredia and Asensi, came to England to face a depleted Ipswich side, which was short of Mariner (suspension), Woods (illness) and Thijssen (ineligibility).

With due respect to the inexperienced Gates-Brazil-Geddis forward trio, they shouldn't have presented any problems to such international defenders as Migueli, Olmo and De La Cruz. I went to see this match in the company of an ex-international referee, the Hungarian Istvan Zsolt, and an "Ordinary Fan" who just loves the game and is completely impartial.

We were looking forward to a feast of attacking football from both sides, a sample of Krankl's lethal finishing, a bit of Neeskens' midfield wizardry. I should have known better! The Spaniards (an acceptable misnomer for a motley collection of various nationalities) were like frightened rabbits.

In the first quarter-of-an-hour, they kicked everything that moved (except the ball), and they only calmed down after referee Palotai cautioned De La Cruz, who paradoxically, on this occasion, kicked the ball — into the distance after a free-kick was awarded.

The Barcelona defence didn't even attempt to "play the ball out" skilfully, they merely booted it away towards the Ipswich central defenders who then, unharassed, were able to initiate an attack. These insane tactics transformed young Butcher and Osman into a couple of Beckenbauers who, with time on their hands, showed a great deal of class and composure.

Krankl could have been eating a Wiener Schnitzel in the club restaurant for all he did on the pitch in the first half. Ipswich scored early in the second period, and then for five minutes, Barcelona decided to play. Suddenly they burst into glorious action, with Heredia leading the charge and Krankl (at last!) showing glimpses of his world-class rating.

Inevitably, the visitors equalized, then immediately slumped back into their previous abysmal style of non-play, and eventually lost 2-1. A good result for them (indeed, they k.o'd Ipswich in Barcelona) an absent observer might say.

But what did we — the fans — Zsolt, my friend and I get for our money, our efforts to be there? Practically nothing from Barcelona, a great deal of honest endeavour from Ipswich. This is simply not good enough, and this game wasn't an isolated case either.

Butcher of Ipswich (left) and Migueli of Barcelona.

M, CAN'T I?

Hajduk Split and Red Star Belgrade used exactly the same tactics at Highbury in the UEFA-Cup earlier in the season. Halduk foolishly lost, when one could sense that if only Surjak and Zungul had the courage and conviction of testing the Arsenal defence, they could have scored at least a couple of goals.

Why are they so timid? "The system of the European two-legged competitions is wrong," said my "Ordinary Fan" friend. "This was the worst game I have seen during my two weeks' stay in England," said Istvan Zsolt. "I even enjoyed watching Chelsea more."

(Apropos Chelsea! Danny Blanchflower insists that despite the dismal results, the team are beginning to play the right kind of football. I have seen all of Chelsea's home matches this season, and failed to detect any improvement. Unless Danny considers that passing the ball consistently to the opposition, missing chances from five yards, and committing infantile errors in one's own penalty area is 'the right kind of football'.)

Tommy Docherty was quoted recently after one of his Derby County's matches: "This game can drive you mad or to drink . . . and I'm not going into a madhouse for anybody." Well, I am not much of a drinker, so the solution must be found elsewhere. I know that there is a strong resistance to changes in the laws of the game, but a recent "experiment" tried out in South America caught my imagination.

The two sides included such past heroes as Djalma Santos, Carlos Alberto, Clodoaldo and Pedro Rocha, and the match ended in a 5-5 draw.

Let's look at the revolutionary new rules used, and try to judge their possible effects on football:

1. Offside only in the penalty areas: Although the players didn't really take advantage of this unusual freedom, I am not in favour of it, because such a drastic change would alter the character of the game. I would prefer the '35-yards' rule which operates in the U.S.A. and widens only slightly the 'no offside' area.

2. A penalty-kick awarded after five fouls committed: This is a marvellous idea and could clean-up the game instantly. The constant fouling — 'professional' or 'amateur' — is the worst feature of the modern game. Inevitably, the stoppages spoil the fluency of the action, and 'beating a man' is becoming a lost art. A local newspaper report of this experimental game says that Airton Lira, one of the forwards, scored a goal by going past several opponents, and nobody dared to risk a 'professional foul' because they already had four 'black marks' chalked-up against them! Naturally, for every offence a proper free-kick is given, the penalty is an additional punishment. Such a measure would also encourage attacking football, and the goals per match ratio would increase.

De La Cruz in action for Barcelona against Ipswich Town in the European Cup Winners Cup.

3. Playing time 30 minutes each way, the clock being stopped when the ball is not in play: An excellent, although not original innovation. Time-wasting is yet another irritating feature of our football. This measure would render such a device useless, guarantee the entertainment of the spectators, and would divest the referee of the irksome task of ascertaining 'extra-time'.

4. Kick-ins instead of throw-ins: An 'old' idea which has been tried out in various competitions. I don't think that it would stop defenders 'slide-tackling' and pushing the ball over the line. The resultant 'kick-ins' might cause some goalmouth excitement, but I'd like to see the 'throw-in' preserved.

5. Two referees — one in each half of the pitch: With counting free-kicks, measuring playing-time etc., the referee would be a busy man if all these laws were put into operation. I suspect that we would need at least two officials on the park, and probably a timekeeper off it. But there is nothing wrong with the present system of one ref. plus two linesmen — as long as the guy in the middle is fit enough.

So, was this game just a pleasant aberration for a bunch of old-timers, a utopian exercise which gave us an opportunity to glimpse the future, or merely a device to provide a 'classic' type game of football for a nostalgic night? Knowing the hard-headedness of the legislators, their reluctance to change even a comma in the laws of the game is understandalbe.

I suspect that revolutionary changes are highly unlikely. But I must insist that they are not only necessary, but imperative if football is to keep its place as the premier spectator sport.

Just imagine — a game in which tactical fouling doesn't pay, time-wasting is useless, defensive tactics are self-defeating . . . I can dream, can't I?

'Futebol' is fans escape in Brazil

by Hans John Maier

WHO are the world's best fans?

Many experts would say those of Boca Juniors in Argentina. Some might say those of Glasgow Rangers or Liverpool.

All of these may be among the top supporters, but the *best* belong to the Corinthians Soccer Club of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

What do I mean by "best fans?" I mean people who support their club at all times, no matter how badly the team are doing. Of course there are different levels of support, but the best fans are the ones who back their team in every way; from simply going to the games and throwing confetti or shouting, to staging massive victory celebrations.

Why are Corinthians' fans the best? The team have not won a championship in 25 years but whoever heard of 5,000 fans taking a 51-hour bus trip over 2,000 miles to see their team in a championship quarter-final? Or 85,000 faithful supporters travelling 300 miles (two of whom walked) only one week later for the semi-final? And 30,000 of those covering 800 miles to see the finals?

Brazil, the only country to win the World Cup three times, have long been known for some of the world's most fanatical fans because soccer is more than just recreation.

In a country stricken with so much poverty, the people need an escape to forget about everyday problems of food, shelter and health. "Futebol" is their escape. To many Brazilians, soccer is the most important thing in their lives; it is a religion.

Whenever there are two or more people, and an object which can be kicked around, a game will start — never mind the playing surface.

Construction workers play on the tops of 20-storey buildings with soda cans during their lunch hour; kids scrimmage on the narrow strips between busy highways, teenagers practise on the beach from sunrise to sunset; and factory workers play on company fields in organized leagues after work.

Some professional teams even started as factory teams. It got to the point where hiring crews would take prospects out to the soccer field to test them. Their mechanical or engineering skills were not so much the determining factors — rather how well could they play football?

Professional level

"Soccer is everything to Brazilians," said Luiz Fernando de Lima, journalist for *Journal do Brazil*. "For a lot of people, it's the only thing. People live and die by the sport. Not just at the professional level, but in the sandlots as well."

"In Europe and the rest of the world, people have other ways of affirming themselves as people. Here, it isn't like that. Kids grow up with only a soccer ball in their mind."

A tragic illustration occurred in 1950 when Brazil, needing only a draw to clinch the World Cup, suffered a 2-1 defeat by Uruguay in front of 200,000 of their own fans.

Numerous people throughout the land reportedly suffered heart attacks, while others committed suicide by jumping off bridges and stadium stands.

A more recent — and pleasant — example occurred in 1970, when the national team won the World Cup for the third time.

"People celebrated non-stop for over two days," Lima recalled. "There were young and old, male and female, dancing, drinking and having a party in the streets. Celebrating continued for weeks and even months after that, but nothing was like the start when no one stopped for 48 hours straight."

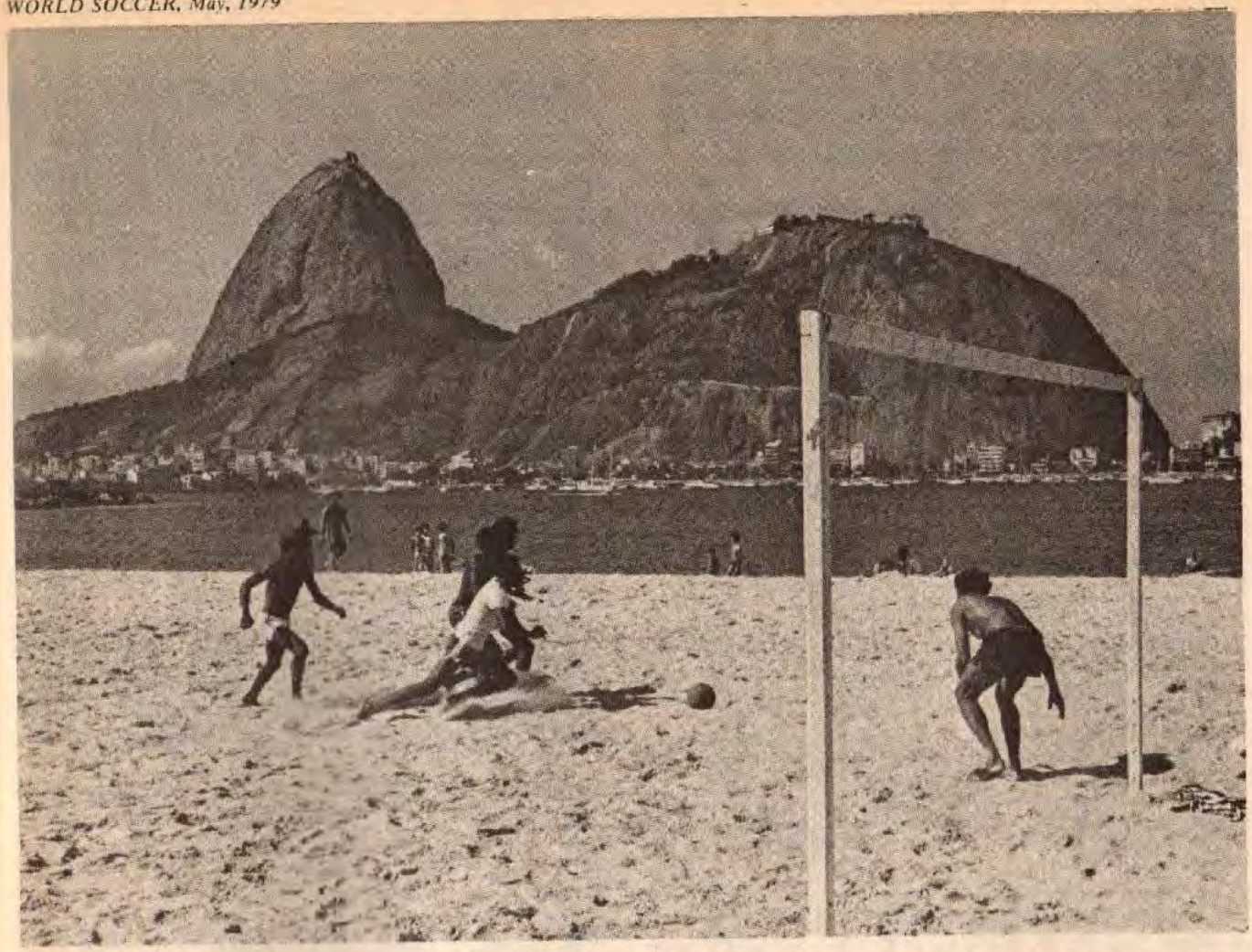
The great interest in soccer has also led to the development of organized fan clubs called "torcidas." There are often as many as ten torcidas per team, each ranging in size from under 100 members to over 4,000. These "large families", as they are often called, are self-sponsored and have little to do with the other supporting clubs or the team itself. All the finances, organisation and work comes from within the group.

The torcidas' job is simple: to support the team to the best of their abilities. This is done by waving huge flags, banging drums, shooting fireworks, singing songs, throwing confetti, rice or powder, and simply getting as vocal and rowdy as they can.

The action in the stands is often more exciting than that taking place on the field. Few foreigners can possibly imagine the pandemonium which occurs when a team is introduced or a goal scored.

Hundreds of banners sway in all directions, drums are beaten violently, powder is thrown widly and booming fireworks fill the stadium with a magical cloud-like mist. The scene is one of pure hysteria, which repeats itself continuously throughout the game.

This is not to say the Argentians during the World Cup were not more fanatical. Never has a host nation had such great support as in



Argentina. No one will forget the pandemonium in River Plate Stadium when the Argentine team stepped on the field before the final, or the wild victory celebrations of over one million fans in Buenos Aires after the game.

One has to remember, however, that this took place during the World Cup. The world's most prestigious tournament always carries with it a type of fever which transforms even the most reserved crowd.

Brazilian teams do not need the World Cup to get their fans going. The torcidas carry their own "spirit fever" with them, all season long. They are the main force in making Brazil's soccer teams the world's best supported.

The first organized fan club was in 1941, for Flamengo. The appropriately called themselves "Charanga," after the old, noisy jalopies of that time.

Most famous of all torcidas, however, belongs to Corinthians. Despite the team's 25 years without a national title, the fans are more loyal than those of championship teams.

Spotlight

"Corinthians have the best fans in South America and probably the world," said Tarlis Batista, reporter for *Manchete*, Brazil's largest selling weekly.

Even though Corinthians share the spotlight with three other professional teams in Sao Paulo, estimates show that between 60 and 70 per cent of the citizens are Corinthians fans. The reason is that the other three teams did not originate from the common folk, as did Corinthians. Palmeiras and Portuguesa stemmed from early Italian and Portuguese colonies, while the Sao Paulo Club grew out of the elite.

Corinthians, with its 11 torcidas, have more than any other Brazilian team. The latest, "Bionic Torcida," is the first all-female group in the country. Other torcidas of the team include the "Gavioes" (Hawks), the largest with over 4,000 members; "Camisa 12" (Jersey No. 12); "Povao" (Large Public); "Force Atuante" (TYour Force); "Timao" (The Big Team); "Garra" (Fighters) and "Coracoa" (Heart).

Members in the torcidas come from many backgrounds. Some are millionaires, while others are lucky if they have a meal each night. There are engineers, students, truck drivers, doctors, lawyers and office boys. But once in a club, just like a player on a team, all are equals, no one is treated above the others.

How can fans support a team so intensely when it has not won a title in so many years?

"Most teams just celebrate the big wins," explained Claudio Romero, president of "Camisa 12," the team's second-largest torcida with more than 2,000 members. "But not so with Corinthians. For us, each victory is like a cup final."

Two years ago even Corinthians had the chance to enjoy playoff victories. They made it all the way to the national final before losing 2-0 to International of Porte Alegre.

"Over 5,000 fans travelled 51 hours in buses to watch the quarter-final game," said Romero. "We left early Friday and got there one hour before the game on Sunday. As soon as the game was over, which we won, we got back in the buses and came home."

Five thousand people, five days in cramped buses along the bumpy Brazilian roads for one game?

"Even crazier was when 85,000 of us went to Rio (300 miles) to watch the semi-final against Fluminense. Two of the more faithful fans even walked to show their love for the team. Fluminense, the home team, had only 55,000 fans there!"

Romero then explained why "only" 30,000 supporters made it to the finals in Porte Alegre, 800 miles away.

"After the Fluminense game, we all stayed in Rio partying for two days and spent all our money. A lot of us even got fired because we didn't show up for our jobs. But who cares, we won!"

With fans who take the game that seriously, how safe is it to root for another team?

"Sure it gets dangerous," pointed out "Junior" Caetano da Silva, a typical Corinthians fan.

"We are fanatics, but not like the English. Our fans surpass theirs in every category except one — violence. We are more fanatical, better supporters, louder, everything. Soccer means a lot more to us than to them. Yet they're more vicious.

"I know, I studied in London one year. In England, if there is a group of fans from Manchester United, and an opposing fan sits next to them, they'll kill him. We would never kill you . . . at least not as long as you kept your mouth shut."

Meredith has best record...

by PAUL RADFORD

TEN years ago is was possible to count the illustrious band of players with 100 or more caps for their country on the fingers of one hand.

The international centurions certainly contained some select names, including the legendary Jozef Bozsik of Hungary, the great Brazilian full-back Djalma Santos and England's own Billy Wright.

But now as international fixtures proliferate, the band is growing into an army, and we are not far short of a score of players claiming the same distinction.

It would be wrong to devalue the achievement just because more caps are available these days. After all, to become a centurion you have to be a regular international choice for some 10-12 years or so.

All the same, it's worth reflecting that the man with the most astonishing international career of all time — outshining even the likes of Pele, Charlton and Moore — is a player who never passed the 50 mark.

Welsh winger

His name, in case you haven't guessed it already, is Billy Meredith, the Welsh winger whose career with Manchester City and Manchester United lasted a remarkable 30 years.

Meredith played his international football between 1895 and 1920, winning his last cap at the ripe old age of 45, but because Wales only played in the home championship his appearances were restricted to 48.

A similar career in the 1960s and 1970s would have given Meredith well over 100 caps, and perhaps an international record which would never have been beaten.

Pat Jennings (Arsenal) saves from Lou Macari of Manchester United.

As it is Meredith's record of 48 appearances in the home internationals is way ahead of anyone else and is most unlikely ever to be broken.

Even more remarkable Meredith lost the chance to add up to 15 extra caps because of the outbreak of the First World War.

One man still playing can, however, approach the amazing Meredith — Northern Ireland's keeper Pat Jennings.

At 34 Jennings has 37 home international appearances to his credit and is still his country's number one choice.

If Jennings goes on for another five years he could even reach the fifty — but that's a very big if.

To assess Meredith's record I've drawn up a list of the 20 players with the most home international appearances.

It's a story of 5 Englishmen, 3 Scotsmen, 6 Welshmen and 6 Irishmen and reads almost like an A to Z of British international soccer.

1.	Billy Meredith (Wales)	1895-1920	48
2.	Billy Wright (England)	1947-1959	38
3.	Ivor Allchurch (Wales)	1951-1966	37
	Danny Blanchflower (N. Ireland)	1950-1963	37
	Pat Jennings (N. Ireland)	1964-1977	37
6.	Jimmy McIlroy (N. Ireland)	1952-1966	36
7.	Billy Bingham (N. Ireland)	1952-1964	34
	Bob Crompton (England)	1902-1914	34
9.	Bobby Charlton (England)	1958-1970	32
	Fred Keenor (Wales)	1920-1933	32
11.	Cliff Jones (Wales)	1956-1969	31
12.	Wally Lewis (Wales)	1885-1898	30
	Bobby Moore (England)	1963-1974	30
	Alan Morton (Scotland)	1920-1932	30
	Terry Neill (N. Ireland)	1962-1973	30
	Alf Sherwood (Wales)	1947-1957	30
	O. Stanfield (N. Ireland)	1887-1897	30
18.	Tom Finney (England)	1947-1959	29
	Bobby Walker (Scotland)	1900-1913	29
	George Young (Scotland)	1947-1957	29

Just as Meredith stands head and shoulders above the rest in the longevity of his international career, so does another legendary figure dominate the field in the goal-scoring stakes.

And it's a contemporary of Meredith's whose record has stood for over 70 years — the England, Derby and Middlesbrough forward Steve Bloomer.

Bloomer netted 28 times in his 23 appearances for England, all of them in home internationals, between 1895 and 1907. That puts him six ahead of his nearest rival, Hughie Gallacher and nine ahead of Jimmy Greaves in third place.

The full list of leading home internationals goalscorers, with appearances in brackets, reads as follows:

1.	Steve Bloomer (England)	1895-1907	28 (23)
2.	Hughie Gallacher (Scotland)	1925-1935	22 (19)
3.	Jimmy Greaves (England)	1960-1966	19 (13)
4.	Bobby Charlton (England)	1958-1970	16 (32)
5.	R. Hamilton (Scotland)	1899-1911	15 (11)
	T. Lindley (England)	1886-1891	15 (12)
7.	Vivian Woodward (England)	1903-1911	14 (16)
8.	John Charles (Wales)	1950-1965	13 (19)
	Denis Law (Scotland)	1959-1974	13 (26)
	R. McColl (Scotland)	1896-1908	13 (13)
	Lawrie Reilly (Scotland)	1949-1957	13 (20)
	G. O. Smith (England)	1893-1901	13 (19)
	A. Wilson (Scotland)	1920-1923	13 (10)

The top Irish goalscorer is Billy Gillespie who netted ten time in his 25 appearances between 1913 and 1931.

ASIA 1978

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Bahrain	5	0	0	5	3	17
Bangladesh	2	0	0	2	0	4
China	14	8	1	5	27	13
Hong Kong	1	0	0	1	1	4
India	5	1	0	4	5	13
Indonesia	13	4	3	6	11	19
Iran	10	3	2	5	10	13
Iraq	19	12	3	4	29	11
Israel	5	3	1	1	6	3
Japan	15	4	1	10	20	33
Korea (North)	7	4	2	1	12	4
Korea (South)	28	24	4	0	69	13
Kuwait	6	3	1	2	13	8
Malaysia	19	8	4	7	34	32
Pakistan	3	0	0	3	0	19
Phillipines	1	0	0	1	0	5
Quatar	4	1	1	2	6	8
Saudi Arabia	6	2	2	2	11	6
Singapore	12	2	3	7	12	26
Syria	8	1	0	7	9	21
Thailand	19	7	2	10	23	34
Oceana:						
Australia	3	0	1	2	2	4
New Zealand	3	1	0	2	3	5

Asian Games

Previous winners

1951 (New Delhi)
1. India
2. Iran
3. Japan

1954 (Manila)
1. Taiwan
2. Korea (South)

1958 (Tokyo)
1. Taiwan
2. Korea (South)
3. Indonesia

1962 (Djakarta)
1. India
2. Korea (South)
3. Malaysia

1966 (Bangkok)
1. Burma
2. Iran
3. Japan

1970 (Bangkok)
1. Burma and Korea (South)
3. India

1974 (Teheran)
1. Iran
2. Israel
3. Malaysia

Bahrain
Korea (South) 1-5
Japan 0-4
Kuwait 0-3
Malaysia 1-2
Korea (South) 1-3

Bangladesh
Malaysia 0-1
India 0-3

Burma
Thailand 1-2
Korea (North) 0-3

China
Hong Kong 4-1
Venezuela 1-0
Colombia 0-1
Colombia 2-2
Surinam 3-1
Saudi Arabia 1-0
Iraq 0-2
Quatar 3-0
Korea (South) 0-1
Thailand 4-1
Malaysia 7-1
Iraq 1-0
Korea (South) 0-1

Hong Kong
China 1-4

India
Malaysia 0-1
Bangladesh 3-0
Kuwait 1-6
Korea (North) 1-3
Iraq 0-3

Indonesia
Malaysia 3-0
Thailand 1-0
Korea (South) 1-1
Singapore 2-2
Korea (South) 1-3
Syria 1-0
Japan 2-1
Iraq 0-4

Malaysia
Thailand 0-1
Singapore 0-3
Thailand 0-0
0-2

Iran
Yugoslavia 0-0
Wales 0-1
France 1-2
Ghana 3-0
Holland 0-3
Scotland 1-1
Peru 1-4
New Zealand 2-1
Morocco 2-0
USSR 0-1

Iraq
Algeria 3-0
Algeria 1-0
Korea (North) 1-0
Algeria 1-1
Japan 0-0
Syria 2-1
Indonesia 4-0
Singapore 3-0
Korea (South) 0-2
Quatar 2-1
China 2-0
Saudi Arabia 1-1
Korea (North) 0-1
Kuwait 3-0
India 3-0
China 0-1

Israel
Denmark 2-0
Denmark 1-0
Holland 1-2
Belgium 1-0
Rumania 1-1

Japan
Thailand 3-0
Korea (South) 0-3
Iraq 0-0
Indonesia 1-2
Syria 3-2
Korea (South) 0-4
Malaysia 1-4
Singapore 1-2
Thailand 4-0

USSR 1-4
USSR 1-4
USSR 0-3
Kuwait 0-2
Bahrain 4-0
Korea (South) 1-3

Korea (North)
Iraq 0-1
Burma 3-0
Thailand 3-0
Iraq 1-0
India 3-1
Kuwait 2-2
Korea (South) 0-0

Korea (South)
Kenya 2-2
Pakistan 5-0
Saudi Arabia 2-0
Japan 3-0
Singapore 3-1
Indonesia 1-1
Malaysia 3-1
Thailand 3-0
Indonesia 3-1
Thailand 1-0
Malaysia 3-1
Singapore 2-0
Japan 4-0
Iraq 2-0
Indonesia 2-0
Syria 2-0
Iraq 2-0
Bahrain 5-1
Kuwait 2-0
Japan 3-1
China 1-0
Malaysia 1-0
Thailand 3-1
Korea (North) 0-0
Malaysia 2-2
Bahrain 3-1
Phillipines 5-0
China 1-0

Kuwait
Japan 2-0
Korea (South) 0-2
Bahrain 3-0
India 6-1

Iraq 0-3
Korea (North) 2-2

Malaysia
Indonesia 0-3
Singapore 1-1
Korea (South) 1-3
Thailand 1-1
Thailand 3-3
Korea (South) 1-3
Singapore 6-0
Thailand 2-0
Indonesia 1-0
Japan 4-1
Syria 5-2
Iraq 1-2
India 1-0
Bangladesh 1-0
Thailand 1-2
Korea (South) 0-1
China 1-7
Bahrain 2-1
Korea (South) 2-2

Pakistan
Saudi Arabia 0-6
Korea (South) 0-5
Kenya 0-8

Phillipines
Korea (South) 0-5

Quatar
Algeria 3-1
Iraq 1-2
Saudi Arabia 2-2
China 0-3

Saudi Arabia
Pakistan 6-0
Kenya 2-0
Korea (South) 0-2
China 0-1
Quatar 2-2
Iraq 1-1

Singapore
Korea (South) 1-3
Malaysia 1-1
Thailand 1-3
Indonesia 2-2

Malaysia 0-6
Korea (South) 0-2
Thailand 1-2
Iraq 0-3
Japan 2-1
Syria 4-1
Indonesia 0-0
New Zealand 0-2

Syria
Indonesia 0-1
Iraq 1-2
Japan 2-3
Thailand 1-3
Malaysia 2-5
Singapore 1-4
Korea (South) 0-2
Tunisia 2-1

Thailand
Japan 0-3
Indonesia 0-1
Singapore 3-1
Korea (South) 0-1
Malaysia 1-1
Malaysia 3-3
Korea (South) 0-3
Malaysia 0-2
Singapore 2-1
Syria 3-1
Indonesia 3-0
Iraq 0-1
Japan 0-4
Burma 2-1
Korea (North) 0-3
Malaysia 2-1
China 1-4
Korea (South) 1-3
Indonesia 2-0

OCEANIA
Australia
Greece 1-2
Greece 0-1
Greece 1-1

New Zealand
Singapore 2-0
Iran 1-2
Morocco 0-3

Group 1

Iran 2 China 0; Iran 1 Saudi Arabia 1; Iraq 2 Quatar 1; China 1 Saudi Arabia 0; China 3 Quatar 0; Quatar 2 Saudi Arabia 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iraq	3	2	1	0	5	2	5
China	3	2	0	1	4	2	4
Saudi Arabia	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Quatar	3	0	1	2	3	7	1

Group 2

Malaysia 1 India 0; Malaysia 1 Bangladesh 0; India 3 Bangladesh 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Malaysia	2	2	0	0	2	0	4
India	2	1	0	1	3	1	2
Bangladesh	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

Group 3

Korea (South) 2 Kuwait 0; Korea (South) 3 Japan 1; Korea (South) 5 Bahrain 1; Kuwait 2 Japan 0; Kuwait 3 Bahrain 0; Japan 4 Bahrain 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Korea (South)	3	3	0	0	10	2	6
Kuwait	3	2	0	1	5	2	4
Japan	3	1	0	2	5	5	2
Bahrain	3	0	0	3	1	12	0

Group 4

Korea (North) 3 Burma 0; Korea (North) 3 Thailand 0; Thailand 2 Burma 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Korea (North)	2	2	0	0	6	0	4
Thailand	2	1	0	1	2	4	2
Burma	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Semi-Finals

Group A

Korea (South) 1 China 0; Korea (South) 3 Thailand 1; Korea (South) 1 Malaysia 0; China 4 Thailand 1; China 7 Malaysia 1; Thailand 2 Malaysia 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Korea (South)	3	3	0	0	5	1	6
China	3	2	0	1	11	3	4
Thailand	3	1	0	2	4	8	2
Malaysia	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

Group B

Korea (North) 1 Iraq 0; Korea (North) 2 Kuwait 2; Korea (North) 3 India 1; Iraq 3 Kuwait 0; Iraq 3 India 0; Kuwait 6 India 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Korea (North)	3	2	1	0	6	3	5
Iraq	3	2	0	1	6	1	4
Kuwait	3	1	1	1	8	6	3
India	3	0	0	3	2	12	0

Play off for Third place: China 1 Iraq 0.

Final: Korea (South) 0 Korea (North) 0.

Asian Championships:

1956 (Hong Kong)
1. Korea (South)
2. Israel
3. Hong Kong

1960 (Seoul)
1. Korea (South)
2. Israel
3. Taiwan

1964 (Tel Aviv)
1. Israel
2. India
3. Korea (South)

1968 (Teheran)
1. Iran
2. Burma
3. Israel

1972 (Bangkok)
1. Iran
2. Korea (South)
3. Thailand

1976 (Teheran)
1. Iran
2. Kuwait
3. China

Asian Champions Cup:

1967 (Bangkok)
1. Hapoel Tel Aviv (Israel)
2. FC Selanger (Malaysia)

1970 (Teheran)
1. TAJ Teheran (Iran)
2. Hapoel Tel Aviv (Israel)

1968 (Bangkok)
1. Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)
2. Yang Zee (Korea (South))

1971 (Bangkok)
1. Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)
2. Police Club Bagdad (Iraq)

BELGIAN CREATE A OF SOCCER

Club Focus on Sportkring Beveren by Keir Radnedge

JEAN JANSSENS gets up at six every morning and is ready for work in the Antwerp docks at seven.

It's no sedentary clerk's job to which he goes, but five hard days as a docker, working through to 4.30 in the afternoon with half an hour snatched for lunch somewhere along the way.

Then it's back home, an hour or so to spend with his wife and two sons and out again to be at the stadium by six for two hours' training. Home again soon after eight he'll sit back and watch television for a while, but always by 10 o'clock the house is asleep.

As Janssens says: "Living like that for 11 months of the year keeps you out of mischief."

As much time as he can spare in that well-ordered existence he spends tending his racing pigeons.

"My wife can't stand them," he says. "She says that since my life is tied up with football I ought to have a hobby that's nothing to do with sport."

A life tied up with football . . . that's obvious from the dedication to training. But Janssens is not alone in his semi-professional existence. There are 16 or so more like him in his club, working at full-time jobs during the day, creating a remarkable piece of Belgian football history on Sundays and in midweek.

For Janssens is captain of Sportkring Beveren, the unrated, unspectacular club whose progress to the Cup-winners' Cup semi-finals and whose consistency at the top of the Belgian league, has been one of the outstanding features of the European season.

Yet with the exception of West German top scorer Erwin Albert, Beveren rely totally on a part-time commitment. Not only from the players. From president Jan Van Ussel — a 59-year-old pharmacist — down through general secretary Marcel Van Goethem — an Antwerp council employee — even to team coach Robert Goethals, Beveren exist on a split personality.

And in an era when it sometimes seems that footballers have to be kept in a childlike state of total dependency on the clubs to organise their lives, provide their meals, tell them when they're allowed out and what time they must be in bed, it's refreshing to find that part-time football can still pay — and not only in terms of results.

Goethals, no relation to the far more renowned Anderlecht coach Raymond Goethals, estimates that his players are the best-paid in Belgium. Not because of their basic pay but through the bonuses which victory in Europe and success in the league has brought.

Goethals has been in charge of the 'Flanders Farmers' less than a year. He's 55 and spends his time during the day lecturing in physical education at the University of Antwerp and Ghent.

Just as Goethals had to do without two key players for the first round Cup-winners' tie away to Ballymena, because they couldn't get time off work, so he too has been handicapped by the calls on his time.

Goethals, 55 and looking like an older Bobby Charlton, drives almost 150 miles a day between the university, his home and the Freethiel stadium. But it's travelling for the away European games which has provided his most hectic timetables.

For the visit to Rijeka in Yugoslavia he arrived to join his team just four hours before the game and after both that game and the visit to Milan to face Internazionale, Goethals was off and running immediately the final whistle had gone to catch the taxis and planes to be back at work the following morning!

Goethals was head of the Belgian coaching federation for almost 20 years before Beveren invited him to put his theories into practice in succession to Urbain Braems, who had left for Ajax after taking Beveren to fifth place in the league and their first success in the Cup.

The present boss, who relies heavily on team coach Henri 'Rik' Pauwels — a clerk with General Motors in Antwerp — is under no illusions about the reasons Beveren have emerged from obscurity.

"Brugge had won the league three years running but success made them stale. Now Anderlecht are basically the strongest team in the championship. But they've had some injuries and they've thrown away some silly points. With Standard Liege rebuilding it means that we, as the best of the rest, have been able to come through.

"Being part-timers causes problems, but we've got used to coping. The players make sure that they turn up for training after work every night and they take care to stay in good shape. They play for a hobby but it does pay them!

"Our strength is in our teamwork and the way all our players help each other out during a game. Also, we don't have a great star, so no-one need feel he is anybody else's shadow. Another thing — we're very fit. The boys have to be, playing three games a week and having to go to work as well!

"But I'm not sure anyway that it's good that men of 25 or 26 should be giving all their time to football. There are other things in life, other responsibilities with which one must learn to cope."

Goethals claims it took him only a couple of training sessions to understand the needs of his players and within the restrictions posed by a part-time set-up and the lack of a full staff of assistant coaches he has done his best to provide individual schedules for each player.

Not for Goethals though the blind public relations for which many managers go in. Before the Inter game in San Siro — which Beveren approached with some trepidation since they'd never played before anything more than a 40,000 crowd — Goethals set out his objective: "We need a 0-0 draw. We cannot afford anything else. Inter know how to defend in depth and even a 1-0 defeat would be too much for us to deal with."

Goethals had spied on Inter twice, being particularly impressed with their 2-1 away win over Fiorentina. And if Beveren's game is not the most subtle, depending to a large extent on long crosses and a couple of tall strikers to challenge for everything in the air, these tactics were the best designed to keep the Italians under pressure in the return.

When Beveren first entered Europe in 1970-71, they had to play the games in Antwerp because their own stadium wasn't up to scratch — even though it does hold more people than live in the little town of Beveren!

The town's population is 15,000, and the stadium holds 20,000 with most standing and just 3,000 under cover. Until this spring it was three-sided, with a temporary stand being set up behind the one goal just in time for the quarter final.

The in joke was that when Inter's players were brought to the ground they said they'd already seen the training pitch, where was the main stadium?

Van Ussel and his directors did consider taking their European games to Antwerp, but decided finally to keep faith with their fans, even though they could have made more money by switching. As it is Beveren run on a tight budget and there are few luxuries. The directors all had to pay their own way to Milan, though they did splash out for once by taking the players' wives and fiancees along.

Goalkeeper Jean-Marie Pfaff, whose possible sale this summer to Anderlecht or Ajax would put Beveren way into the black, even arranged for his four-year-old daughter to join the trip.

Pfaff, now Belgium's undisputed No 1 goalkeeper following the retirement of Christian Piot, is the team's star. The only previous

The players

JEAN-MARIE PFAFF. Goalkeeper. Born Dec. 4, 1953. Started playing at 11 in the Beveren boys' team. Was 16 times chosen as reserve goalkeeper in the national squad and would have won far more than 11 caps had it not been for Christian Piot. Elected Belgian footballer of the year with 252 votes, 30 more than Rene Vandereycken of Brugge. Outstanding in San Siro against Inter and is on the wanted list of Anderlecht and Ajax. Runs a sports goods business and has a publicity contract with a local bank.

PATRICK ALBERT. Goalkeeper. Born Nov. 13, 1951. Signed last summer from little Torhout FC but was previously first choice for six years with Cercle of Bruges. A teacher, it was his two errors which allowed Brugge a 2-1 Cup quarter final win against the holders.

EDDY JASPERS. Right back. Born April 15, 1956. Began with Wildert, the first club of Koln's Belgian forward Roger Van Gool. Joined Beveren at 18 and became a first team regular two years ago. Five caps for Belgium under-23s. Scored five goals last season thanks to his attacking breaks down the right, and made the decisive second goal in the Cup Final win over Charleroi. A car mechanic.

FREDDY BUYL. Stopper. Born October 21, 1944. One of the original Beveren players from the fourth division days. Nicknamed the Lion because he never gives up. Has been with Beveren 18 years and won three selections for Belgium B. Electrician.

PAUL VAN GENECHTEN. Sweeper. Born April 24, 1941. The oldest player in the Belgian first division, is now just 38. Has been a Beveren first-teamer for 10 years, having arrived at the club via Beerschot and Gerda. A little slow now but an efficient organiser of the defence, Van Genechten is, appropriately enough, a fireman by trade. His daughter is Belgian ice skating champion.

MARK BAECKE. Left back. Born July 24, 1956. Started with Excelsior St-Niklaas, and joined Beveren five years ago, moving into the first team in 1976-77. Played

OUTSIDERS LITTLE BIT HISTORY

Beveren player to make a name for himself was forward Wilfried Van Moer who, in any case, spent his most important years with Standard.

There was once a team called Standard in Beveren too and it was with their merger with neighbours Amical that the present SK Beveren came into being in 1935 and made a dutiful start in the county leagues. Even then they played on the site of their present stadium, though in those days the biggest crowds came to watch the cycling sprints.

It was in 1948 that they earned promotion to the fourth division and in 1951 that the next opportunity of progress arrived. All rested on a play-off against Mol Sport and Beveren won astonishingly 5-4 after being 4-0 down with 20 minutes to go!

They stayed up for nine years, then slipped back into the fourth division. If anybody had said they would one day be European semi-finalists he would have been dismissed as crazy. But in 1960 two youngsters joined up who would see that miracle.

One was stopper Freddy Buyl, the other Jean Janssens. Beveren climbed out of the fourth division into the third, then into the second, and finally, in 1967 arrived for the first time in their history in the top flight. In 1970-71 they found themselves in the Fairs Cup, going out in the third round to Arsenal after beating 1st FC Vienna and Valencia, but the next year brought only the disappointment of relegation.

The fans thought the glory days were over. Yet Beveren, having gathered only 16 points in the first division in 1971-72, won the second division title and have held their place up with the Anderlechts, Brugges and Standards ever since.

Gradually, more and more fans were drawn to Beveren from the nearby centres of Brussels, Antwerp and Ghent. And their faithfulness was rewarded last season when Beveren collected their first price, the Cup, despite having to play every game away from home.

In the semi-finals Lokeren, the club of Polish World Cup forward Wlodek Lubanski, went doen 2-0 while Charleroi were surprisingly beating Brugge 3-1 in the other game. The score in the final was also 2-0, with Beveren the winners slightly against the run of play.

And that set the club a problem. Though their pitch was large enough for Belgian standards, it didn't conform to UEFA requirements, so during May and June workmen were called in to extend it so the pitch could settle down for the new season.

Perhaps it's the new pitch, more likely the new manager and the signing of Albert for £40,000 for Hertha Berlin, but Beveren haven't looked back.

Under the gaze of Ballymena manager Billy Johnstone they won their opening game 3-0 against RWD Molenbeek and fifth in the league last season, reached No 1 for the first time in their histor thanks to 3-0 home over Lokeren while Anderlecht were going dow by the same margin to Brugge.

A 1-0 win away to Standard Liege, for whom Erwin Kostedde was making his debut on his return from West Germany, extended the Beveren lead over Anderlecht and Antwerp to four points before the winter freeze stopped football in Belgium for a month.

The inactivity was a problem for the rivals but not for Beveren. Goethals was pleased his men could take a breather. That it hadn't affected their rhythm was plain when they went further ahead after the snows had gone, thanks to a 3-1 win in Antwerp in the local derby. Before the game the Antwerp captain presented Janssens with a huge bouquet of flowers as a tribute to Beveren's European Odyssey. Albert headed a hat-track in the 3-1 win and the following Wednesday Bob Stevens scored the single goal against Internazionale which propelled Beveren, Belgium's sole survivors, into the European semi-final draw.

A team of veterans Beveren may be, with an average age of 28, and several regular first-teamers past 30, but as Janssen says: "Experience and some wise old heads are very important in Europe, and we have quite a few!"

Questions have been placed against the defence: that right back Jaspers isn't sharp enough in the tackle, that Van Genechten is too old, Buyl too small for a stopper, but on-one can take away from Beveren their pride in their achievements so far.

They can also claim one other piece of notoriety. They were the first club to undergo a European dope test since the fuss about Willie Johnston: the occasion was their home tie with Rijeka when the Belgian police, succeeding where they had failed a few week before with Anderlecht and Barcelona, turned up to take samples.

The results were negative — the only time that word can be used about the club this season!

Next month; World Soccer

REPORTS and PHOTOGRAPHS from the three European Finals

Don't miss — place an order with your newsagent

four times for Belgium last season. Likes to attack, as he proved with the two goals which beat Rijeka in the Cup-winners' Cup. A warehouse clerk.

RUDY VAN GOETHEM. Defender. Born May 17, 1953. A product of the Beveren youth section he first played in the senior team seven years ago. However two years ago he suffered a serious knee injury and on his return was hurt again. Played only one league game and the cup semi-final last season. Works as an office caretaker.

ALBERT CLUYTENS. Right midfield. Born November 16, 1955, at Hoboken. Joined Beveren in 1974 and became a regular in 1976-77. A tricky and clever player, has played half a dozen times for Belgium and had a major influence in last season's successes, despite missing the final stages because of a wrist injury suffered in training. A dustman in Antwerp by day.

HEINZ SCHÖNBERGER. Centre midfield. Born December 30, 1949. A West German, one of four foreigners at Beveren and among 73 in the Belgian first division. Started with Kickers Offenbach and turned professional in 1968 with Tasmania Berlin. After one season moved to Belgium, playing three years for Tilleur, two for Racing Mechelen and joined Beveren in 1977, becoming immensely popular. The midfield brain, he also scored five goals last season. A postman in West Germany, he now works in publicity.

WIM HOFKENS. Left midfield. Born February 27, 1958 in Made (Holland). Joined Beveren from Willem II at 17. Now in his third season in the first team though national service is cutting across his football for the time being. Works for a carpet firm.

FREDY TRUYENS. Midfield. Born February 17, 1956. Started with Gerda St-Niklaas, joining Beveren at 19. Played nine time in the first team from his debut last season. A printer.

KARL HEINZ WISSMAN. Midfield. Born February 2, 1947, at Essen (West Germany). Began with MSV Duisburg before moving to Belgium. Played five seasons with St-Trond and three with RWD Molenbeek. Joined Beveren last year.

ERWIN ALBERT. Striker. Born Bundorf (West Germany) March 27, 1954. Played for FC Bundorf and FC Hassfurt before turning professional with Hertha Berlin in 1977. Played two trial games for Beveren at the start of this season and then signed a two-year contract. Was top scorer originally with Bavarian league team Hassfurt and attracted Nurnberg but they turned him down because of a minor heart irregularity. Hertha signed him but coach Kuno Kloetzer didn't rate him and he has spent most of this season doing his best to prove them wrong. Strong in the air and sharp on the ground he provided the kind of punch Beveren fans had dreamed of and with 18 goals from the first 20 league games has challenged Anderlecht's Ruud Geels for the top scorer award. Beveren's only full-time professional.

BOB STEVENS. Born July 6, 1950. Started as a left back with KV Mechelen in 1967-68 and joined Beveren nearly three years ago. Dogged by illness and asked for a transfer after one season because of the problems of training and running his engineering business. Decided to stay and try to work out a compromise and scored nine times last season . . . as well as the late goal in the rain and snow which beat Internazionale.

JEAN JANSSENS. Striker. Born September 28, 1944. Now in his 18th season with Beveren — and his eldest son, Ivan, is already playing in the youth teams. Has seen Beveren rise from the fourth division and after 10 years, earned an international recall for the European championship draw with Austria, despite being 34. Played 32 league games and scored 12 goals last season. One of the few players ever to refuse an offer from Anderlecht in 1971. Janssens wasn't confident enough in his ability and didn't want to lose his job in the Antwerp dockland.

FAIT ACCOMPLI FROM FIFA

World Soccer Diary compiled by Keir Radnedge

AT 9.30 on the morning of May 17 the FIFA-Haus in Zurich sees the start Very Important Meeting.

The organising committee of the 1982 World Cup meet to confirm the increase in finalists from the traditional 16 to 24 in time for Spain.

The next day, also at 9.30 in the morning, begins the FIFA executive meeting which will rubber-stamp that decision.

A *fait accompli* seems already to have been rolled through by FIFA president Joao Havelange, and uneasy though Europe may be, it's too late now to do anything about it.

An £11 million stadia advertising deal with West Nally of London has gone through — virtually double the Argentina '78 contract — and it's impossible to believe West Nally would have signed their part of the forms without knowing exactly what they were buying and exactly what they will be selling.

Meanwhile, having got everyone accustomed through numerous leaks to the idea of 24 finalists, it seems unlikely that these two vital meetings will pass without some discussion and hint about the format for the qualifying tournament.

One disturbing rumour is that FIFA president Joao Havelange, having repaid his debt to the Third World votes which brought him to power, is now concerned to bring American cash flooding in through an exclusive television contract for North America now being negotiated.

Obviously the chances of it going through depend much on the United States' prospects of reaching the finals for the first time since that famous trip to Brazil in 1950.

It's hard to imagine how the Americans could find themselves in an easier qualifying group than one which in the past has matched them against such world powers as Canada, Haiti and Mexico. But I suppose Mexico might get hived off into the South American qualifiers.

All's fair in love and war . . . and football politics.

* * *

AFTER the hardly surprising revelations that Kazimierz Deyna was unhappy at Manchester City, came first reports of a likely schism between Birmingham City and their Argentine World Cup-winner, Alberto Cesar Tarantini.

Tarantini was listed among River Plate's squad for the new Metropolitan championship, since transfers aren't permitted once the campaign has got under way.

With Birmingham all set to fall off the bottom of the English First Division it was unlikely that smile was rising without fire.

Tarantini and his family had seriously tried to settle down in England. But there are more pressures in life than those produced by a football.

Ipswich Town's central defender Kevin Beattie out-jumps Barcelona goalkeeper Artola and defender Zuviria to head goalward during one of the few Ipswich attacks in the Nou Champ Stadium.

WE TOLD YOU

Five years ago, that Miljan Miljanic was about to join Real Madrid; that Mimis Domazos had just played his 400th game for Panathinakos; and that Jimmy Hogan, whose coaching did so much for Austrian football, had died.

* * *

Ten years ago, that Rapid Vienna player-power had overthrown coach Rudolf Vytlacil; that the goals of Hungarian defector Antal Nagy were leading Standard Liege towards the Belgian championship; that live television of a league game between FK Austria and ASK Linz meant only a 506 attendance; and that River Plate had given a free transfer to veteran goalkeeper Amadeo Carrizo.

* * *

Fifteen years ago, that Sweden were to experiment with substitutes in reserve games; that Feyenoord provided six of Holland's players in a 0-0 draw with Belgium; that a doping row threatened Bologna's league bid in Italy; that Joschi Walter had succeeded Karl Decker as Austrian national boss; and that Karl Rappan had quit for the second time in three months as Swiss boss.

Meanwhile, as Tarantini's future was in doubt, the influx of foreign players continued. Middlesbrough signed Bozco Jankovic from Yugoslavia to strengthen their forward line; Bolton, after months in a mystifyingly persistent chase, signed Tadeusz Nowak from Poland; and Bristol City, having dawdled for months over Ajax's Geert Meijer and Finland's Pertti Jantunen, found themselves rushing to beat the transfer deadline to complete both deals.

After the furore early this season over the standards set for the imports, it would be interesting to know why the vetting process has been relaxed. Meijer, of course, as a Common Market national, is unaffected. But Nowak, Jantunen and Jankovic would never appear even in anyone's preliminary suggestions in naming a world XI.

For years English fans, officials and newspapers laughed at the apparently uncontrollable way all manner of little-known South Americans surged into the leagues of Spain and Italy.

From the recent examples it's all too clear that the joke could soon be on the English!

* * *

HARDLY had we reported here last month that UEFA had vetoed the Santiago Bernabeu

Joao Havelange in Spain.

mini-league tournament than, having considered new arrangements put forward by Real Madrid, they relented.

The tournament will take place as a one-off contest in the autumn on dates *not* reserved for the UEFA club competitions. Since Madrid, Milan and Ajax will probably be in Europe that seems only common sense.

But could there be a little more to it?

Clubs tied up in European competition are not likely to be so interested in extra fixtures at that time of year with all the consequent tiring extra travel involved.

It seems to me that if Madrid go ahead they could be taking the exact amount of rope needed to hang their own tournament.

FERENC PUSKAS is out of work again. The tubby Hungarian, whose reputation remains intact thanks to the grandeur of his playing career, has been dismissed at AEK Athens.

Apart from the strangely solitary success of taking Panathinaikos to the Champions' Cup Final in 1971, Puskas's managerial career has been a succession of failures.

Vancouver in Canada, a spell in the Middle East, positions with small Spanish clubs, have all ended in a comparatively brisk parting of the ways.

Maybe it's true that the best players rely so heavily on their natural talent and instinct that they're lost when it comes to trying to explain it all.

Puskas's first disaster was off the field when he argued with AEK schemer Mimis Domazos before the Champions' Cup first round first leg against Nottingham Forest. Patched-up AEK were quickly eliminated and the last straw was the recent 2-1 defeat for the Greek champions by Aris Salonik.

Names in the news . . .

NAMES IN THE NEWS . . . SALIF KEITA, Sporting Lisbon's Mali forward, is set for a first taste of the NASL . . . ROBERTO RIVELINO returned home to Brazil for a break undecided about whether to return to Saudi Arabia . . . JÜRGEN SUNDERMANN of Stuttgard will take over Grasshoppers Zurich next season . . . FRANCISCO MARINHO was sent off as New York Cosmos went down 2-0 to Atletico Nacional in Colombia . . . GYULA LORANT, sacked by Bayern Munich, replaces Ivica Horvath at Schalke . . . OSCAR MAS, back in Argentina with Quilmes, scored his first goal since his return against his original club, River Plate . . . HERBERT PROHASKA, midfield general of FK Austria, has been the subject of attention for scouts from Barcelona, Schalke and Nantes . . . SOTIRIS KAIAFAS of Cyprus, would be leading contender for the Golden Boot, with 25 goals so far, except that Cypriot figures haven't counted since Kaiafas's previous award mysteriously disappeared . . . JÜRGEN CROY was badly missed by Sachsenring Zwickau for their visit to East German leaders Dynamo Berlin – with Croy out injured Zwickau lost 10-0 . . . JOSIP KATALINSKI, out injured since an early season car crash, will quit Nice at the season's end . . . RUDI KROL, despite a lengthy injury absence, aims to leave Ajax when his contract expires at the season's end . . . ALEJANDRO SCOPELLI has replaced RAUL CARDENAS as boss of Mexico's trouble-torn America FC . . . JUAN CARLOS OBLITAS will not join Brighton next season despite a bid to achieve a tie-up with Tampa Bay in the NASL . . . ANDRZEJ IWAN has been banned for a year by the Polish FA for a punch-up in a bar . . . STEFAN MAJEWSKI, 23-year-old midfielder, has left second division Zawisza Bydgoszcz to fill the Deyna gap at Legia Warsaw . . . HECTOR NUNEZ, sacked earlier this season by Atletico Madrid, has turned down an offer to manage the Uruguay national team . . . LUTZ EIGENDORF, 22-year-old East German international in midfield and the centre of defence, defected to the West after Dynamo East Berlin's 4-1 defeat in a friendly by Kaiserslautern . . . EMLYN HUGHES, long-serving Liverpool captain, broke all records with his £100,000 testimonial fund – only Borussia Moenchengladbach upset the party by winning the grand benefit match 1-0 through Ewald Lienen.

LEFT: John Madzima, President of the Rhodesia National Football League and the Zimbabwe Football Association. RIGHT: Felix Tapfuma, Chairman of the Dynamos club of Salisbury and leader of the breakaway clubs from the Rhodesia National Football League.

NEW LEAGUE SPARKS CRISIS

RHODESIA

by Tommy Ballantyne

THERE can be few people in the world today who are unaware of the existence of a small, land-locked country in Central Africa which is called Rhodesia, but which will soon become known as Zimbabwe.

Unfortunately its soccer history in recent years has been inextricably associated with politics and a guerilla war which has been raging for ten years.

Fate would have it that in the same year that Rhodesia was accepted into membership with FIFA, a unilateral declaration of independence was declared by its government against Great Britain, and five years later, in 1970, Rhodesian football was indefinitely suspended from the international body.

It was the former president of FIFA, Sir Stanley Rous, who, after two visits — in 1964 and 1965 — laid the foundations for a new national association in this country which enabled real progress to be made in the promotion and coaching of football on a semi-professional basis.

But the suspension and the bitter war have combined to bring matters to a head again, and, just when another (new) national association — the Zimbabwe Football Association — was brought into being on March 25, a major crisis has hit Rhodesian football.

The most famous club in the country, Dynamos, has withdrawn its support and participation in the national league and other clubs have joined with it to form a National Professional Soccer League (NPSL) as a protest against what they claim have been unjust treatments by the present league's management committee.

The Executive president of the national league, John Madzima, was taken completely by surprise by this drastic action of the top clubs, and has fought a grim battle for survival as momentum has gathered for the "rebels".

Most of the grievances by the clubs centres on financial matters, and particularly on the heavy levies which the league places on fixtures under its control.

For example, in a recent sponsored cup final, the league took 50 per cent of the gross gate for its own purposes, and when all expenses had been met from the balance, there was nothing left to share between the participating finalists, one of which, needless to say, was Dynamos!

While some critics felt that the rebel clubs should at least have attempted to negotiate with the league on this grave issue, the clubs themselves felt that events had gone beyond negotiation and so declared their own "independence".

The position is even more ironic, as it was Mr Madzima who was elected president of the new national body, ZFA, and who now faces an even bigger problem of unifying all clubs in the country under the banner of ZFA.

The Rhodesian season is only ten weeks old and fixtures are in a chaos, with one knock-out competition, the heavily sponsored B.A.T. Rosebowl, suspended until normality returns.

Just when this will come about is anybody's guess, and players are enjoying an unexpected break from the notorious eleven-month season that extends from January until November.

Several players have cast an envious eye to the south, to South Africa, where players receive much higher rewards for their skills, and indeed, where many Rhodesians have already drifted to seek fame and fortune.

But for the thousands of fans around the country, it is a diet of "friendly" games for the present as stalemate has brought organised football to a standstill.

Crawford impresses in the top flight . . .

AN interesting new figure in the First Division – especially so to me – is little Andy Crawford, the 20-year-old Derby County striker.

You could scarcely classify him in any other way, for although he is so small and light, although he can move to either flank, he is forever in the thick of the action.

At Chelsea, he was not intimidated even by the massive, looming bulk of Micky Droy, who towered above him like an oak tree. Though largely left footed, Crawford though scarcely devastating in the air, Crawford's courage, quickness and intelligence, his readiness to take on men and beat them, even to a fault, should guarantee his success in the First Division.

Last season he made his debut and had one other game. This season, despite all the comings and goings which have made Derby, under Docherty, into a kind of glorified transit camp, he has succeeded in gaining a regular place.

A pleasant, modest young man, he's the great newphew of a player and manager who was a good friend of mine for many years; Ted Crawford. Ted died last year, as I recorded in these columns at the time, in some obscurity, but he was a fine coach, a success in places as far apart as Italy, Athens and Sweden, and one of the finest raconteurs I have met in the world of football.

A Yorkshireman from Filey, like Andy himself, Ted began his career as a centre-forward with Halifax Town, played for Liverpool, was injured, moved to Clapton Orient, as they then were, became an inside-left; and played six seasons without realising he had broken an ankle!

I am sure Ted would have been proud of Andy, and it is good to think that memories of him will be so pleasantly evoked in the seasons to come.

●BRIAN GLANVILLE

FIVE SECOND GOAL BEATS THE RECORD

Rosario Central's Trama — leading scorer in the Argentine First Division with four goals after three games — being tripped up by Estudiantes de la Plata's defenders Mariano and Brown.

THE early surprise team — after three games in the Argentine first division — is Racing Club, now coached by former Argentine and Italian international, Omar Sivori (of Juventus fame). Racing has picked up five points out of six and jointly tops section A with River Plate. And they have done it in spite of Sivori's strict discipline which has already resulted in his twice suspending a group of players so that, counting injuries, there were as many as seven first-teamers out at the same time. Racing's line-ups have been among the youngest in the league so far.

River Plate meanwhile are also unbeaten and look the most solid team, although their two new signings — Uruguayan internationals De los Santos (defence) and Carrasco (half) — have not quite settled down in Argentine soccer and are not first team regulars.

Top section

Rosario Central is the only team with full points from three games and they top section B with solid team-work and a lethal attack which has scored 11 goals in three matches — a fact which has not escaped national team coach Cesar Menotti who picked two of their players (attacking half Jorge Garcia and forward Felix Orte) for international duty for the first time.

A point behind are newly promoted FC Oeste whose compact defence is bolstered up by newly signed Brazilian World Cup defender Rodriguez Neto who is already the idol of their fans following some brilliant performances. But we have not yet seen the best of Boca Juniors, the South American club champions for the last two years who are a further point behind and whose many new signings — mostly from Newell's Old Boys — have not quite settled down to the team's different style.

The short championship — only 18 matches before the top two from each group play the semi finals and the bottom two from each section fight it out to avoid three relegation places — affords little time to settle down however, but it is bringing back the crowds. There have already been several sell-outs — a welcome contrast to last season's record low gates in the much longer championship.

And the third round was set alight by two great goals.

Diego Maradona, the 18-year-old international midfielder who was last season's first division top scorer, brought the house down by taking the ball from the half-way line and beating half a dozen opponents to score one of his two goals in Argentinos Juniors 3-1 win over Velez Sarsfield. Earlier in the afternoon, centre forward Seppaquercia had a go less than five seconds after the start, scoring from 50 metres out with a spectacular shot to open the score in his team's (Gimnasia y Esgrima) 1-1 draw with Huracan.

It beat the first division record for the quickest goal held since 1946 by famed Alfredo Di Stefano who had scored after nine seconds for Huracan against River Plate, the club which had loaned him out for a year to the former.

● IN BOLIVIA, Bolivar beat Wilsterman 1-0 in a first place play-off to win the professional league title — the last of the so-called 1978 season tournaments to finish in South America.

from Eric Weil

Autonoma on top . . .

WITH 10 matches to go in the Mexican first division, the 28th round proved the most productive so far with 37 goals scored in the 10 matches, helped by the biggest win of the season: Universidad Autonoma de Mexico 8, Tampico 1.

Plenty of goals are being scored in Mexico with the over-all first division average being as high as 2.78 per game so far this season. Brazilian star, Evanivaldo Casto "Cabinho" of Universidad Autonoma tops the individual scorers for the fourth season running with 22, followed by team-mate Hugo Sanchez with 17.

While Universidad Autonoma de Mexico (highest scorers with 59) and Universidad de Neuvo Leon — with the best league record in the four groups (14-11-4) — continue to top groups 2 and 4 comfortably and Monterrey hang on to the group 1 lead, a point in front of Guadalajara and two ahead of star-studded America, Cruz Azul (with the best defence — 25 goals against) have taken over the group 3 leadership from Toluca.

River Plate's new midfielder, Uruguayan international Carrasco, scores in his debut, but he did little else.

FLAMENGO TEAM OF THE YEAR

BRAZIL

by Claudio Kuck of "O Globo"

FLAMENGO have won the first part of the Rio de Janeiro Championship. They are winning everything just now and beat their own record of 1976, when under the coaching of Carlos Froner (now Vasco da Gama's coach) they went 34 matches without losing.

Since October 22, 1978 they have played 40 matches without defeat. The responsibility for such performance is Claudio Coutinho. The Brazilian and Flamengo's coach is really doing a good job in Flamengo. He won the Guanabara Cup and the previous "Carioca" Championship.

Coutinho promoted some young players, signed new ones and gave to Flamengo a strength that nobody can match now in Brazilian soccer. It's a kind of "total football" that is giving hope to the Brazilians that, finally, their national team will play like they used to in the past. Perhaps a new 1970 World Cup champions side.

The most important thing is that Flamengo are an attacking side. Will Coutinho impose this pattern of playing in the Brazilian team also? The second part of the Rio de Janeiro Championship has begun and Flamengo destroyed Sao Cristovao 6-1 and Goytacaz 7-1. Zico, again a confident striker, scored six times against Goytacaz. Carpeggiani, in the midfield, is by all means the best Brazilian player. Adilio a new talent. As Fluminense have lost to Sao Cristovao, Vasco da Gama and Botafogo draw against weak teams, nobody doubts in Rio that Flamengo will again win the title.

In such a mood Coutinho named 40 players who will play for Brazil in some friendly matches and in the America Cup against Bolivia and Argentina. He said that he wants to try new players. One possible combination in the next Brazilian attack may be: Zico-Socrates (Corinthians). "They can do for Brazil," said Coutinho, "what Tostao and Pele did in Mexico, in the last World Cup we won."

Paulo Cesar Carpeggiani and Falcao (Internacional) will be responsible for the midfield strength. After the Argentinian World Cup deception there is a new optimism in Brazilian soccer. Everbody now trusts Claudio Coutinho.

To win the first part of Rio de Janeiro championship, Flamengo had only to draw the last match against Botafogo. They started as they had to win and after 45 minutes they were winning 3-0. Flamengo rested in the second half and easily maintained the 3-0 lead.

SAO PAULO

In Sao Paulo two big teams are already out of the eight who will play the final tournament. They are Portuguesa de Desportos and Sao Paulo. Palmeiras are still fighting for a place. They must win the two remaining matches against Noroeste and Comercial, if not they will lose their place in the eight finalists for Juventus. The other finalists are: Guarani, Corinthians, Botafogo de Ribeirao Preto, Ponte Preta, Francana, Santos and Ferroviaria. The favourites to win are Corinthians, Ponte Preta and Santos.

RIO DE JANEIRO CHAMPIONSHIP

Flamengo 1 Fluminense 1

Maracana Stadium
Attendance: 103,843

Goals: Zico (Flamengo) after 24 minutes/ Rondinelli (own goal) after 35 minutes.

Referee: Jose Roberto Wright.

Yellow cards: Manguito (Flamengo). Edinho and Fumanchu (Fluminense).

Red card: Rondinelli (Flamengo).

Flamengo: Cantarelli / Ramirez — Manguito — Rondinelli and Junior / Paulo Cesar. Carpeggiani — Zico and Adilio / Reinaldo (Nelson) — Claudio Adao (Andrade) and Julio Cesar.

Fluminense: Wendell / Edevaldo — Moisés — Edinho and Isidoro / Carlos Alberto Pintinho — Carlos Roberto and Mario / Fumanchu (Robertinho) — Nunes and Zeze (Toninho).

Fluminense 1 Botafogo 0

Maracana Stadium
Attendance: 58,176

Goal: Edinho after 22 minutes.

Referee: Luis Carlos Felix.

Yellow cards: Chiquinho and Osmar (Botafogo) / Zeze (Fluminense).

Fluminense: Wendell / Edevaldo — Moises — Edinho and Isidoro / Carlos Roberto (Toinzinho) — Pintinho and Mario / Fumanchu — Nunes and Zeze.

Botafogo: Ze Carlos / Pervialdo — Osmar — Miltao and China / Chiquinho — Mendonca and Ademir Lobo / Gil (Cremilson) — Luisinho and Tiquinho.

Fluminense 0 Vasco 1

Maracana Stadium
Attendance: 43,779

Goal: Guina (Vasco) after 66 minutes.

Referee: Valquir Pimentel.

Yellow cards: Toninho Vanusa and Guina (Vasco) / Edinho (Fluminense).

Fluminense: Wendell / Edevaldo — Moisés — Edinho and Isidoro / Carlos Roberto (Toinzinho) — Pintinho and Mario / Fumanchu (Robertinho) — Nunes and Zeze.

Vasco: Leao / Orlando — Abel — Geraldo and Marco Antonio / Helinho — Toninho Vanusa and Guina / Wilsinho — Paulinho and Ramon.

Flamengo 3 Botafogo 0

Maracana Stadium
Attendance: 128,106

Goals: Zico after 6 minutes / Carpeggiani after 21 and Luisinho after 40 minutes.

Referee: Jose Roberto Wright.

Yellow cards: China, Chiquinho and Perivaldo (Botafogo) / Manguito, Luisinho, Junior and Tita (Flamengo).

Flamengo: Cantarele / Leandro — Manguito — Nelson and Junior / Paulo Cesar Carpeggiani — Andrade and Zico / Tita — Luisinho and Julio Cesar.

Botafogo: Ze Carlos / Perivaldo — Celso — Osmar and China / Ademir Lobo (Ricardo) — Chiquinho and Mendonca / Gil — Luisinho Lemos and Tiquinho (Wecsley).

Zico

SAO PAULO CHAMPIONSHIP

Sao Paulo 3 Guarani 0

Morumbi Stadium
Attendance: 11,894

Goals: Viana after 9 minutes, Serginho 30 and 36 minutes.

Referee: Joao Leopoldo Aleta.

Red card: China (Guarani).

Sao Paulo: Valdir Peres / Getulio — Estevao — Bezerra and Anetonor / Chicao (Peres) — Teodoro and Wilson Tadei (Murici) / Edu — Serginho and Viana.

Guarani: Nenca / Mauro — Gomes — Edson and Mirando / Manguinha (Gersinho) — Ze Carlos and Capitao / Renato — Miltao and Claudinho (China).

Portuguesa de Desportos 2 Santos 3

Pacaemba Stadium
Attendance: 36,336

Goals: Alcino (Portuguesa) with penalty after 23 minutes; Nelson (Santos) after 39 minutes; Ailton Lira (Santos) with penalty after 44 minutes; Alcino (Portuguesa) after 65 minutes; Juari (Santos) after 69 minutes.

Referee: Marcio Campos Sales.

Yellow cards: Pradera, Alcino and Eneas (Portuguesa) / Pita (Santos)

Portuguesa de Desportos: Moacir / Marinho — Pradera — Beto Lima and Nelsinho / Wilson Carrasco — Eudes (Tata) and Eloi / Alcino — Eneas and Jorge Luis (Camargo).

Santos: Vitor / Nelson — Joãozinho — Neto and Gilberto / Clodoaldo — Ailton Lira and Pita / Nilton Batata — Juari (Celio) and Joao Paulo.

Corinthians 0 Ponte Preta 0

Pacaembu Stadium
Attendance: 41,736

Referee: Marcio Campos Salles.

Red Card: Afranio (Ponte Preta)

Corinthians: Jairo / Ze Maria — Djalma — Ze Eduardo and Vladimir / Taborda — Biro-Biro — and Rui Rei Vaguinho — Socrates and Romeu.

Ponte Preta: Carlos / Toninho — Oscaar — Juaninho and Toninho Costa / Humberto — Marco Aurelio — and Lucio (Jorge Campos) / Orca — Osvaldo and Afranio.

Marilia 0 Palmeiras 0

Marilia Stadium
Attendance:-15,978

Referee: Jose Favilla Neto.

Marilia: Zecao / Valdir — Marcio — Rubens and Reinaldo / Soni — Serginho and Luis Silvio / Nene (Roberto) — Jorginho and Ferreira.

Palmeiras: Gilmar / Rosemiro — Beto Fuscao — Marinho and Pedrinho / Ivo — Pires and Ailton Rocha / Baroninho — Jorge Mendonca and Nei (Ze Mario).

Domazos tops the 'Golden Oldies'

by Arthur Rotmil

NOT so long ago a footballer who reached 30 years of age was considered "over the hill". Certainly, his value for example on the transfer market, would drop substantially once he was past that barrier, after which he was regarded as a veteran.

But in recent years, thanks to advances in medical care, training methods, body building exercises and other biological remedies, the number of footballers still active well into their thirties has dramatically risen. Some of the world's most famous players are in fact currently nearer 40 than 30!

Italy's No. 1 goalkeeper Dino Zoff is 37, but the most consistent 'keeper in the country is Ricky Albertosi who was 39 last November . . . Jan Jongbloed kept goal for Holland in the last World Cup final at the age of 37; Sepp Maier is still West Germany's first choice at 35. In England Kevin Keelan (Norwich City) is 38, and Peter Bonetti (Chelsea) just a year younger.

What these men have in common is of course, that they are all goalkeepers. To find a field player of such advanced age is more difficult, and one who in midfield has to run faster and harder than most, almost impossible? Well, not quite. For at the moment the best footballer in Greece is a midfielder on whom the great physical demands are made and he is 38!

Transfer

Mimis Domazos, the most popular footballer in Greece, is clearly a phenomenon. He began his career in 1959, but only three months after his transfer from Acharnaikos Athens (3rd Division) to Panathinaikos, Domazos was called up into the national team. Until 1977 he played in 49 internationals — only Papaioannou played more often for Greece (61).

In 19 years with Panathinaikos, having played 490 League matches, he won the championship medal nine times, the Cup three times and twice the coveted "double". His greatest success came when he captained the "Panas" in the European Cup Final at Wembley in 1971, although they lost to Ajax Amsterdam 0-2.

During his long and distinguished career Domazos learned from his numerous club managers: Harry Gaim (England), Stefan Bobek (Yugoslavia), Bela Guttmann (Hungary), Juan Hohberg (Uruguay), Aimore Moreira (Brazil), Ferenc Puskas (Hungary) and Kazimierz Gorski (Poland). His favourite remains Puskas, under whom he played from 1970 till 1975 at Panathinaikos. Since last summer Domazos has again been playing under the famous Magyar, but this time with AEK.

In 1977 Domazos celebrated yet another "double" with Panathinaikos, but soon after, the new Polish team manager Gorski wanted to rejuvenate the side and started leaving Domazos out. A real "tug-of-war" began between them, but eventually the Pole succeeded. He put out his schemer for three months and finally didn't even include him in the squad. But without Domazos Panathinaikos couldn't successfully defend their title and as a result Gorski was forced out! There were many who thought that Domazos was behind the sacking. When in June 1978 Puskas took over at AEK he immediately asked for Domazos.

AEK president Loukas Barlos didn't hesitate long and struck a real bargain by getting the player for just £29,000. But Domazos was clearly worth several times that amount. It was at first planned to use him as a tactical substitute, but the management reckoned without his ambition.

"His influence on the team and his character are priceless," says president Barlos.

Revenge

For Domazos every successful game with AEK is a sort of "revenge" on his former coach Gorski, whom he now wants to show that he rejected him too early. "I have proved with AEK that I am far from finished," insists the star player who found a new lease of life in different surroundings. Only one disappointment has so far marred his highly successful comeback. After ten years of marriage to the country's most popular folklore singer Vicky Mosholiou, they were divorced last summer.

Domazos ranks as the outstanding Greek player of all time. He was captain of his club and the national side. His team mates always called him the "General" and he was and still is respected by the whole footballing fraternity in Greece. He has gained every honour the game has to offer and even achieved his life long ambition of playing in a European Cup Final. No other Greek club has got that far in this most prestigious competition.

Swerves

The "Panas" beat Jeunesse d'Esch, Slovan Bratislava, Everton and Red Star Belgrade, before Domazos led his team out at Wembley on that memorable 2nd June, 1971. He stood out even in this illustrious company, prompting, organising attacks, cleverly beating opponents with deft flicks, dribbling skill and body swerves. In the second half as the Greeks pressed forward, Domazos was at the centre of almost every attacking move. Sadly it wasn't enough, for Ajax knew too much, nonetheless that occasion in which he figured on the losing side he regards as his greatest moment in his football life. "I shall always cherish the memory of that day", says the re-born star.

Now, at 38, he is again the idol of the crowds wherever he plays. Who knows, the clamour of the fans may even force the national manager to recall Domazos to international duty.

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Greaves confesses

ON THE LITERARY qualities of Jimmy Greaves' autobiography, *THIS ONE'S ON ME* (Barker, £4.95), I do not intend to expatiate. Poorer pens than mine have done so already. I shall limit myself to saying that I divide such ghosted works now into two categories; pre and post *ONLY A GAME*, the memoirs of Eamon Dunphy, written in conjunction with Peter Ball.

by Brian Glanville

This book, in its honesty, authenticity and pungency, set new standards for its genre. Ignore them, as almost all such works, alas, still do, and you are back in the realm of the . . . let us say, politely, stylised. Thus, Greaves tells us everything and tells us nothing because the voice is not his. But since his story is a pitiful and poignant one, as he was a remarkable player of mesmeric skills, as the book evokes so many memories for me, I feel moved to write about it. Or him.

Greaves was not only a wonderful footballer, he was a lively, humourous, intelligent, delightful companion. The origins of his heavy drinking remain as obscure, after reading his book, as they were before it. What one may say is that, whatever his outward ebullience, Jimmy Greaves was always, and obviously, a highly strung, highly vulnerable, insecure young man. It would be shallow to draw analogies with Best, though they inhabited the same high plane of performance, but this at least they had in common: they had to deal with the consequences of fame at an age when they simply weren't ready for it — and who could blame them.

Each was a teenage star. The Milan affair, which cost Greaves so much anguish, occurred when he was only 21 years old. He should never have gone and it was sad that he did; inevitable that such things should go badly wrong. By an odd irony, Greaves' root and branch attack on Nereo Rocco, then Milan's manager, comes only a matter of weeks after the death of *Il Paron*.

How well I remember how it all happened! The journalist, domiciled in London, whom Greaves presents as the clandestine go-between was called Roberto Favilla, an amiable and even ingenuous man who found himself cast against type. Milan's behaviour, as Greaves says, was scarcely admirable; but it was typical. No one gave Greaves decent advice. No one told him what he would encounter in Italy; the endless *ritiri* — the training camps — the nagging discipline the clubs imposed on their players, extending even to their sex lives.

Greaves shouldn't have gone. Chelsea shouldn't have sold him. It was one of the many clumsy moves this agreeable, ham-fisted club have made over the last 20 years or so. Greaves was the coruscating jewel in their crown, one of the few players anywhere who could draw crowds by his individual presence. £80,000 was an idiotically low price for Greaves, even then. When he came back to London a matter of months later, Spurs had to pay Milan £99,999 for him. But Greaves signed; and having signed in haste, proceeded to repent at leisure.

It didn't take long for him to feel regret. I was on the tour of Europe made by England in May, 1961, when they played in Rome, with Greaves in excellent form, and beat Italy 3-2. After that, the party flew off to Vienna. The English papers buzzed with controversy over Greaves' transfer. Should he, shouldn't he? Would he, wouldn't he? Jim Manning, in the *DAILY MAIL*, was generally felt to have had the better of his rival columnist, Bob Findlay of the *DAILY EXPRESS*. Findlay thought Greaves would have to go, Manning that he would and should stay in England.

In mid-air, Greaves gave a press conference and announced that he was staying with Chelsea. Dozing in his seat, Sir Stanley Rous, then still Secretary of the F.A., opened an eye and said to me: "I don't see how he can." He was quite right. To Milan Greaves went. The club found him intransigent, recalcitrant, perverse. Greaves found the club spiteful, authoritarian and inhuman. He found Italian football repugnant; absurdly negative, disgracefully violent and sly.

Prodigious

The ironic thing is that Greaves did enormously well in Italian football, scoring a prodigious number of goals in a very short space of time. "He ruined my Championship," Rocco grumbled to me, on a train, when he came to England later that season. I had a certain sympathy with him, though the club certainly behaved to Greaves without charity or sensitivity. If, though, his wife, Irene, had been less hostile to the environment, perhaps things would have worked in the end. After all, John Charles, who had joined Juventus back in 1957 and was still in Italy when Greaves arrived, had become a folk hero in Italian football.

Greaves speaks, naturally, of the greatest disappointment of his career, his omission from the World Cup Final team of 1966, and tends to gloss it over. It hurt him terribly; and here again, it might have helped if those closest to him had tried to spread balk on the wounds, rather than exacerbate his sense of grievance.

For what it is worth, I think he should have played, even though he never did himself justice in a World Cup — the true litmus paper of a great player — and failed signally in Chile.

That sunny Friday morning, at the Bank of England grounds in Roehampton, as Greaves waited to hear Alf Ramsey's decision, he came up to me smiling and said: "We must have another game next season, Brian!" He meant a game between our two Sunday clubs; fine encounters they were; but how noble of him even to give them a thought at such a time as that!

He was, without question, one of the finest goal scorers, the most exciting, gifted players I have ever seen in British football. Since I wish him luck in anything he does, I wish him luck with his book; and may all his problems be behind him.

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AWAY GOAL RULES OUT SERVETTE

THE TWO Swiss clubs Grasshoppers Zurich and Servette Geneva did well to reach the quarter-finals in both the principal European Cup competitions, but lack of match practice after the long winter break proved a weighty handicap and they didn't progress any further.

Nearest to success came Servette in the Cup Winners tournament when they held Fortuna Düsseldorf to a goalless draw in Germany. Hopes were dashed, however, in the return when the visitors took a shock early lead, so that a late goal by Andrey meant a scoreline of 1-1 and exit for the Swiss on the away goal.

Grasshoppers could consider themselves rather unlucky in as much as only three minutes from the end of their away tie at Nottingham Forest they were just 1-2 down. Two late goals made the score line decisive and there was no "miracle" in the return in Zurich.

by Arthur Rotmil

The "Hoppers" had other even more pressing problems on their hands at the time. The team slumped in the League to seventh place and below the critical dividing line between the championship and relegation play-off. If Grasshoppers were to remain there, then they couldn't defend their title. Worse still, the relegation pool mans inevitably poor gates and is financially a disaster.

Clearly this is not the team which last season won the championship in fine style and reached the semi-finals in the UEFA-Cup. Some blame must be attached to the team management. The German Helmuth Johannsen was accused of being too hard on the players most of whom have jobs outside football and are therefore not ad dedicated to the sport as the full timers.

Johannsen's methods, adopted from the German Bundesliga, do not appeal to every player, nor indeed to the club's board. It was decided by "mutual consent" to terminate his contract at the end of the season. The club began in fact looking for a new coach way back in the New Year.

Transpired

All sorts of names were being bandied around including Udo Lattek the boss of Borussia Mönchengladbach, Gilbert Gress the chief of French leaders Racing Strasbourg and others lesser known. Eventually it transpired that Jurgen Sündermann of VfB Stuttgart will take over in the summer. He has played before in Switzerland for Servette and Basle, them became player/coach to Servette, before returning to West Germany.

Sundermann has done exceptionally well in Stuttgart, but is leaving because his family didn't want to forfeit the right to a permanent residence in Switzerland, which expired last autumn, but can apparently be backdated.

The Grasshoppers international forwards Claudio Sulser and Raimondo Ponte were being linked with Nottingham Forest, whose manager Brian Clough is apparently thinking over a bid of between £150,000-£200,000 Ponte is said to be ready to further his soccer career as a full-time professional with a top European club. He is technically a most accomplished player, a skilful dribbler, accurate in his passing, with a great variety of crosses and a free-kick specialist.

Sulser, who is studying law, wants to stay and complete his education, for he considers a football career a risky business. He has scored eleven goals in six European Cup matches this season and would be an asset to any team seeking a lethal striker. Sulser said: "Only Real Madrid could lure me away to full-time football".

The season resumed after its three-month break at the end of February with the semi-finals of the League Cup. Servette beat Grasshoppers by 3-1 at home after extra time and will meet Basel in the Final. Basel defeated Neuchatel Xamax by 2-0 away.

Proposals

This competition is still not very popular in this country — only 5,500 spectators in Geneva, just 1,150 in Neuchatel. The football they saw was not particularly inspiring, but the Swiss (the only country on the Continent to organise a League Cup), are determined to give the clubs every opportunity for additional gate receipts.

This muddled thinking was no doubt behind the yet another incredible turn around concerning the new championship formula. After the proposal to increase the two Divisions to 16 clubs each was wisely dropped, it was decided to return to the format of 14 clubs each. But once again the points will be halved and taken by the six top clubs to a championship pool.

In order to compensate the remaining eight (bottom) clubs for loss of additional income, a supplement of 1.50 Frs. (about 40p) will be levied on every ticket sold in the championship play-off and the proceeds handed over to the less privileged clubs! In this way the top teams will play 36 League matches a season, which is two more than for example the fully professional German *Bundesliga*, where they do not have a three-month winter break in Switzerland.

In fact only England and France will play more league games next term than the Swiss part-timers. All the pleadings of the national manager that he needs free dates for internationals and to prepare his squad fell obviously on deaf ears.

The national team did prepare in mid-February in France with two games against club sides Bordeaux and Nice, both ending 1-1. But only a few players exerted themselves, most being certain of their places anyhow. When it mattered, against Holland in the European Championship tie at Eindhoven, Switzerland fought as always gallantly and true to "form" lost, with a couple of late goals. Until six minutes from the end the Swiss trailed just by 1-0, then were hit by two more for an exaggerated scoreline of 3-0.

Rene Botteron of FC Zurich.

● *Continued from page 10*

other hand to increase their pursuit of once-dismissed Hennes Weisweiler) but on the players.

Should Barcelona win the Cup-winners' Cup and become the first side to claim a victory in all three European tournaments, then Muller can sign another contract happy in the knowledge that Denmark's Allan Simonsen may well be strengthening his squad next season.

Simonsen, who decided some time ago to quit Borussia Moenchengladbach when his contract expires at the season's end, had talks with Barcelona early in April. The 26-year-old Dane, Europe's footballer of the year for 1977, had been offered £140,000 a year, with Borussia likely to collect £475,000.

He would, of course, take the place of Johan Neeskens, whose future remains undecided. English, French, German and American clubs are all hovering . . .

Barcelona's league progress has been faltering, with a 1-0 defeat at Burgos the latest disappointment. Hans Krankl has been in mighty form at home, but only five of his 26 goals have been scored away from Nou Camp!

Player Portrait by Keir Radnedge

AN INTERNATIONAL at Wembley, even when the opponents are only Northern Ireland, is always an occasion for foreign journalists and officials to make a pilgrimage to keep in touch with the state of the game in England. That European championship match recently was no exception and beforehand I was exchanging news and views with Max Urbini, one of the senior France football executives, and Jean-Marie Lawniczak, coach to the third division amateurs of Racing Club de Paris.

DROPSY — WHAT A NAME FOR A 'KEEPER!

Talk drifted round to the recent imports into English football and the possibility of clubs moving into the French market.

"I know one of your players no English club would dream of signing," I told them, "and thats Dominique Dropsy."

The humour was lost on them, so I had to explain the connotations of the word 'Dropsy' in the English language when not referring to an unpleasant ailment.

Once they'd caught on that Dropsy is the term applied to anyone who can't catch, and is therefore singularly inappropriate for an international goalkeeper, both laughed loud and long.

Lawniczak was particularly amused. Later I discovered why. He and Dropsy had been goalkeepers together at Valenciennes and it was during a pre-season tour of Gabon, in Africa, that Dropsy, a newcomer to the senior squad, had ousted Lawniczak as first choice!

Dropsy was then only 19, and wondering already if he had let his big change slip away. He had began his career at Hirson, a club in the north-east near the Belgian border and not too far from his home town of Leuze, where he had been born on December 9, 1951.

It had seemed only natural that Dropsy should start at Hirson. His father had played there as a goalkeeper, too.

"He could have gone as a professional to Charleville," recalls Dominique, "but he broke his arm."

Young Dropsy was soon inviting the same sort of offers. Bordeaux, Sedan, Reims and Nantes all came calling with Nantes the most insistent. Two of their senior goalkeepers were injured and they needed cover quickly.

Progress

Reluctantly Dropsy's parents said No. Their son couldn't join until he had finished his examinations. So Nantes instead turned to the young Bertrand-Demanes who later proved one of the most formidable obstacles in Dropsy's progress towards the national team!

When examinations were over Dropsy thought he'd been forgotten. Bordeaux, Reims, Sedan were all looking elsewhere. But then Valenciennes stepped in and Dropsy's career was on the move. He was soon playing for district representatives sides — and that provided his first meeting with a forward he would later know well, Bernard Lacombe.

It was in the semi-finals of a youth competition that Dropsy first learned what it was like to have someone put a hat-trick past him as Lacombe and his Lyon colleagues went on to the final.

After nearly two years as an amateur with Valenciennes, Dropsy turned professional at 18 and went on that vital tour to Gabon. In the third game Lawniczak was injured early on against the Libreville Aces. Dropsy went on as substitute and proved immovable!

He had now tasted international football with the French youth team, and that experience stood him in good stead as Valenciennes, under that hard task-master Robert Domergue, earned promotion from the second division. But for any player of ambition, Valenciennes had to be a passing stage.

To keep the bank happy they regularly had to sell their best players, and soon it was Dropsy's turn to be put up for offer. Marseille were interested, and Dropsy was tempted.

"A lot of players dream about going to Marseille. I was keen on the idea at first. But Georges Carnus was still there and I didn't fancy wasting my time. Also I knew there was an unhappy atmosphere about the club, so I decided to join Strasbourg.

"I've never regretted it."

Dropsy admist readily that he took a while to settle in, but it can't have been to difficult for he hasn't missed a championship game since that transfer in 1973. His faith in Strasbourg even survived relegation at the end of 1975-76.

Seasons

After two reasonable seasons in which they had finished eighth and ninth, Strasbourg slumped to next to bottom. Dropsy wasn't to blame. He conceded 56 goals in 38 games, the same as the previous season, but the attack failed to maintain their standards.

"I could have gone to another club," he says, "but I refused because there is something about Strasbourg, about the club and the people. I was sure we had the basics to come straight back and there was no point moving for the sake of it."

Lille were one club interested, and Dropsy appeared to be flying in the face of logic when he turned them down. But he had confidence in a former team-mate who was about to be recalled as coach, in the shape of Gilbert Gress.

Strasbourg had little in their history of which to boast. Just two Cup wins in 1951 and 1966. But when they brought back Gress to Alsace, the midfielder who had played successfully with Stuttgart in the Bundesliga soon showed an iron fist.

Success

As Dropsy said later, discussing Strasbourg's success at the top of the first division this season: "It's all down to Gress, for the way he fights for his players, and for the way the directors have allowed him to get on with the job in his way. Gress has known and worked under a lot of trainers and has learned a lot from each. Now we're getting the benefits."

Strasbourg had gone down in 1976 and returned the following season. Last year they were third, with Dropsy conceding 40 goals in their 38 games and helping assure the club a place in the UEFA Cup.

However he appeared further away than ever from achieving his ambition of a place in goal for France.

He'd played enough times for the youth team, also for the military team. Against Brugge and Luxembourg he'd kept goal for the B team, but a place in the senior side appeared barred to him.

It's become a tradition that the French

national team open their season with a friendly against one of Europe's leading clubs. In 1975 it was Real Madrid and in 1977 Hamburg. Each time Dropsy played half the game. But that remained the nearest he came to a full international.

Tall, agile, safe hands — despite his name! — and though never a showy or expressive goalkeeper always confident, always efficient, he seemed destined to be the eternal reserve as Bertrand-Demands, Dominique Baratelli and Andre Rey were also catching manager Michel Hidalgo's eye.

Dropsy was regularly called up for squad training and was hopeful of his first cap in the France-Brazil pre-World Cup friendly. After all, if Hidalgo needed to decide between his goalkeepers they ought all to receive an international chance and Dropsy was the only one ignored this far.

But a couple of days before the game, Hidalgo said: "I have to tell you that Jean-Paul (Bertrand-Demanes) will play against Brazil because there will be several other Nantes players in the defence in front of him and it's only sensible. But you are quite as good as him and I wanted to let you know I haven't forgotten you."

Friends told Dropsy: "Don't worry, your time will come," and he would answer: "But I'm 26 and I still haven't played one game!"

It was nevertheless a major disappointment when he met a journalist after training at Strasbourg to be told: "There are none of our players in the World Cup 22 . . ."

To say Dropsy was disappointed would be to make an understatement: "Seven times I had been the reserve for the team. I have attended all the preparatory get-togethers. Not once had there been a hint that I might not be in the 22."

Gress took a hand now, giving his friend and goalkeeper the sort of pep talk for which he is becoming famous. The only solution was to accept the fact and show that a mistake had been made when the championship started again the following season.

In fact, Dropsy didn't have to wait that long. While he was starting to plan a quiet summer holiday at home — for his wife was expecting thier first baby — and thinking of the water skiing, tennis and fishing he might get in, so Rey was losing a battle to recover fitness after breaking a wrist in training. Rey had been confident he would win his race; in fact time was running out and Hidalgo couldn't take the risk.

Dropsy went to Argentina.

He was under no illusions now that he was third choice. But after Bertrand-Demanes was hurt in the second game against Argentina, with Baratelli substituting, Dropsy finally gained that first cap in the meaningless last match against Hungary.

Jerseys

Both teams were eliminated and to add further embarrassment for the French they committed the silly mistake of taking the wrong colours and holding the game up half an hour while they borrowed the green and white striped jerseys of local club Kimberley in Mar del Plata.

France won 3-1 and for Dropsy that game remains his most outstanding memory.

"It was an experience *formidable*," says Dropsy. "I was the final player called up for the World Cup yet I played a game at last!"

Impatient though he had been for several years to play for France, Dropsy now admits he lost little by waiting. "When I was younger it used to unnerve me terribly to concede a goal. People then used to tell me that a goalkeeper doesn't reach his best until he is 27 or 28 and I couldn't understand it. But now I realise that it is only through so much experience that one improves and learns to conquer one's nerves."

Dropsy missed France's first game of the season, the 2-2 draw with Sweden, but with Strasbourg topping the league he could hardly be ignored for long and is now tentatively establishing himself as No 1, having played in all the succeeding games against Luxembourg twice and Spain.

His presence has become all the more important because of the introduction of several of his team-mates and because of the valuable experience he gained earlier this season in the UEFA Cup.

In the first round Strasbourg faced Elfsborg in Sweden. An hour before kick-off Dropsy was told that his wife had given birth to a baby daughter, and he went out to play the game of his life. As his colleagues struggled to find form, Dropsy made save after save to keep Strasbourg in the game. He was beaten twice — and one of those goals was a penalty — but it was little enough for Gress's men to recover 4-1 in the return.

Hibernian were beaten in the second round, but Strasbourg crashed 4-0 to MSV Duisburg next time out.

And this brings us back to Gress and his dynamic effect on Dropsy.

The goalkeeper says: "The very day after our defeat by Duisburg, Gress managed somehow to build up all our spirits again. You can't be a pessimist with such a trainer around.

"He's certainly given me a lot of confidence. He's taught me to talk to my defenders during a game, to direct them and help organise them. The day after a game sometimes I can hardly speak through losing my voice shouting!"

Gress returns the compliment by saying that Strasbourg's football starts at the back, but the credit is his for making sure Dropsy doesn't punt the ball downfield with a kick, but throws it out to one of his defenders, generally the well-balanced and creative sweeper Jacky Novi.

Dropsy the man is a reflection of his goalkeeping: honest, sensible, practical.

Nobody can live on the past

From Eric Weil

A tired looking national team coach, Cesar Menotti — who had only recently signed a new four-year contract with the Argentine FA following lengthy negotiations and still chain smoking although under doctor's orders to cut it down — sprang a bit of a surprise when he announced his choice of 23 players for the European tour, starting with a match against Holland, in Berne, on May 22 — a re-match of last year's World Cup final (which Argentina won 3-1) to celebrate the inauguration of FIFA's new offices there — and with further matches against Italy on May 26 in Rome, All-Ireland on May 29 in Dublin and Scotland on June 2 in Glasgow.

Menotti had previously said he would not ask for players with foreign clubs for this tour and this excluded six from last year's World Cup squad — forwards Mario Kempes and Daniel Bertoni (playing in Spain), defender Alberto Tarantini and halves Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa (in England) and goalkeeper Ricardo La Volpe (in Mexico). But he also left out defenders Luis Galvan, Ruben Pagnanini and Daniel Killer and midfielders Ruben Galvan, Omar Larrosa and Norberto Alonso.

Some of these were excluded because of their age with the next World Cup in view — specially Luis Galvan, a stalwart in last year's World Cup final who is 31 — and others because recent league performances did not justify their inclusion. But a minor surprise was the ommission of 26-year-old Norberto Alonso who continues to put up outstanding performances for his club, River Plate.

Cesar Menotti

Popular

Alonso was a late, popular choice for last year's World Cup squad in which he was used only sparingly in spite of pulling his team out of possible defeat in the very first match against Hungary after coming on as a substitute. After the World Cup he raised a lone voice in criticising Menotti's handling of the World Cup squad and he is obviously still not in the coach's plans. Nor is national champion Independiente's star midfielder Bochini, but then the midfield continues to be strong.

Still in the team, however, is centre-forward Leopoldo Luque who will be 31 before the team leaves on May 16, which indicates that Menotti can not afford to leave out any more experienced forwards, whatever their age, at the moment.

The party includes only six of the players who lined up in the World Cup final — Fillol (goal), Olguin, Passarella (backs), Gallego (half), Luque, Ortiz (forwards) — and a seventh (winger Houseman) who came on as substitute, while there are 11 new caps with no previous full international experience.

Fully expected was the choice of 18-year-old midfielder Diego Maradona who became Argentina's youngest international against Hungary two years ago, but was dropped shortly before the World Cup when the squad had to be reduced to 22. Maradona, practically a one-man team with modest First Division Argentinos Juniors, a genius at organising, was also first division top scorer last season with 22 goals — some of them brilliant individual efforts from midfield after beating opponent after opponent.

Maradona, who captained the junior (under 19) selection which took second place in this year's South American Junior Championship (in Uruguay) to qualify for the Junior World Cup finals in Tokyo later this year, is joined by defenders Juan Barbas and Juan Simon from that team. Menotti compares 18-year-old Simon to Beckenbauer.

The strong non-first division Cordoba club, Talleres, which had four players in the World Cup squad, now provides most players for the tour — five players — jointly with Independiente. Opposing defences may have to watch another newcomer, striker Norberto Outes, second top scorer last season, who is not an outstanding player, but a great opportunist.

After handing his team to the Argentine FA, Menotti defended his choice by saying that no player — not even the coach — can live on past performances. He agreed that some players had been left out only because they were too old for the next World Cup. Talking of the future tour — which will be the first time that Argentina takes the field since winning the World Cup, Menotti said: "We still want happy, spectactular and clean, attacking soccer, so that even if we don't win, everybody will be satisfied with Argentina's performance" . . . which may go a long way to explain why he only picked young winger Perroti from Boca Juniors, the often rough, but successful team under coach Juan Carlos Lorenzo — South American club champions for the last two years — who, however, had no representatives at all in last year's World Cup squad.

The squad (with clubs and previous international appearances in brackets):

Goalkeepers — Ubaldo Fillol (River Plate — 15), Hector Baley (Independiente — 13); Backs — Jorge Olguin (San Lorenzo — 34), Juan Barbas (Racing), Hugo Villaverde (Independiente), Juan Simon (Newell's Old Boys), Daniel Passarella (River Plate — 30), Enzo Trossero (Independiente — 15), Jorge Garcia (Rosario Central), Victor Ocano (Talleres Cordoba); Halves — Juan Cabrera (Talleres Cordoba), Carlos Fren (Independiente), Americo Gallego (Newell's Old Boys — 47), Miguel Oviedo (Talleres Cordoba — 7), Diego Maradona (Argentinos Juniors — 3), Daniel Valencia (Talleres Cordoba — 22); Forwards — René Houseman (Huracan — 55), Felix Orte (Rosario Central), Jose Reinaldi (Talleres Cordoba), Norberto Outes (Independiente), Leopoldo Luque (River Plate — 38), Oscar Ortiz (River Plate — 22), Hugo Perroti (Boca Juniors).

● **BRAZIL meanwhile — after another rude shock when their junior team failed to finish in the first three in this year's South American Junior Championship (under 19) in Uruguay, missing qualification for the Junior World Cup finals in Japan — are also taking things seriously in preparing for this year's senior South American Champinonships (between July and September).**

The Brazilians have often fielded provinicial selections instead of full international teams for the continental championship in the past, but not this time — perhaps because they are drawn in the first round group against World Cup holders Argentina and Bolivia and are keen for revenge.

As already mentioned in last month's World Soccer, World Cup coach Claudio Coutinho is still in charge in spite of protests from several quarters and he has already said that there will also be tactical changes. He explained: "The defensive soccer Brazil played in Argentina was the result of circumstances and not my plans. I realised that I had no attacking players and too many defenders and midfielders and I had no other way out but to use them according to their capabilities which could not be changed."

POKOU GETS A REPRIEVE

THE case of Laurent Pokou has enraged our French referees, causing them to contemplate striking. Pokou, as you may recall, was suspended for two years for striking a referee during the French Cup match between his club Rennes and Saint Pol de Leon on Christmas Eve; a somewhat unseasonal gesture. But when the Federal Commission of Appeal got together, last February 10, it was to reduce the sentence to a mere six months. This has absolutely infuriated the referees, as is surely understandable. Their official body, the UNAF, made a public protest.

FRANCE
by Andre Duclos

Certainly it wasn't the least impressed by a protest it received itself from a committee of supporters of Rennes, who asked them whether they didn't think that their laws belonged to the epoch of the Holy Inquisition, "where ostracism was the rule". In due course, said the supporters, a new law would come into force to punish players guilty of such offences, one which would very severely punish any professional player, but allowing him to go on playing, so as not to penalise, meanwhile, his club, his supporters, the region and the city, which were guiltless in the affair.

Well, those supporters perhaps had a point, but surely the toughest punishment for a player who has so grossly offended against the laws and spirit of the game is to be removed from it for a substantial period. True, this will punish his club and their supporters as well; but so for that matter will any kind of suspension of a footballer.

It is one of the things which make it bite. To allow a player who has struck a referee or linesman to go on playing means undermining the authority of referees in general, keeping a player on the field who is clearly a potential menace, and thereby failing to discourage other such offenders. A heavy fine, which is presumably what the Rennes fans had in mind, may well be paid by the club itself. In any case, it hasn't the force, the exemplary effect, of a long suspension.

Having said that, it is still legitimate to hope that Pokou will have learned his lesson; that the six months ban and the prospect of a two year ban will have scared him sufficiently to mend his ways. This is a centre-forward of great skill, force and effect. He was, of course, one of the finest players in Africa for years, as leader of the Ivory Coast attack, and resisted the offers of French clubs interminably. When he got to France it was rather late in the day, and a very severe injury has blemished his career since then. There is never the smallest excuse for hitting a referee, but perhaps the knowledge of how much time Pokou lost as the result of a serious foul on himself may have influenced the Appeals Commission towards mercy.

Gilbert Gress has succeeded in revitalising his excellent Strasbourg side, and the fact did not go unnoticed in Stuttgart, where he had several good seasons for the VfB club, a leading challenger now for the *Bundesliga*.

Since the Swiss manager of VfB, Jurgen Sundermann, has announced that he wished to return to Zurich next season — he is at odds with the directors over long, fat contracts which they've given the players — Stuttgart thought of Gress. Sundermann and the VfB President, Meyer, visited Strasbourg; but it seems unlikely that Gress would go. His contract with the Alsatian club lasts until 1980, and he hasn't the German managerial diploma, which is essential — and takes time to acquire.

There are changes in our League calendar next season, though they are not radical: Instead of splitting the Championship into twenty-four matches before the winter break and seventeen after it, next year's formula decrees that there will be only twenty-one games before the pause, followed by another seventeen. The new season will again begin extremely early, on July 26, but it will end on May 27, 1980, to leave time (though goodness knows not much of it) for the European Championship Finals. This will also give room and time for the last stages of which many clubs are in favour. One way and another, you might say that players with French clubs are being obliged to earn their wages.

Delio Onnis of Monaco, the Argentinian centre-forward born in Italy, whom they were thinking of replacing with Cyrille Regis, last season, has reached 200 goals. He would have done it earlier had he not had the mortification — doubly so, in the circumstances — of missing a penalty kick at home to Marseilles. The crowd of 4,000, quite a good one for Monaco, thus saw its team beaten 2-1.

Not since season 1974/5 has a French League player beaten the target of 200 goals. Then it was Hervé Revelli, the French international centre-forward of Saint Etienne, who in due course carried his total to 214. Onnis should do better than that. Carlos Bianchi, that other Argentine centre-forward who got to French football a couple of seasons after Onnis, should follow him to the two hundred some time this year, despite the fact that he missed most of the 1974/5 season with a broken leg.

Onnis began his career with Monaco in 1971/72, when he got 22 goals. He has done wonderfully well for them ever since, his lowest total of all being 17, in his second season: a number with which any Italian League striker would be delighted. While Bianchi was suffering on the sidelines in 1974/75, Onnis was driving in 30 goals. 29 goals the following season failed to save Monaco from relegation to the Second Division, so Onnis promptly scored another 29 to take them up again!

Full marks to the French juniors who took an ample 3-0 revenge on the Spanish youth team which had beaten them 3-1 in the away leg, and thus qualified for the Finals of the UEFA tournament, next June, in Austria. "How could these kids have lost in Spain?" asked the Nantes general manager and ex-international defender, Robert Budzinski, watching them win in Tours. How, indeed?

Letters

SIR — As a newcomer to the interest of following international league results I noticed an inconsistency in the December and February issues. The Belgian league included Kortrijk in one issue and Courtrai in the other. Which is correct? —

Fred Bruce-Oliver,
Claremont, California

** Both are correct, it just depends in dual-language Belgium whether you speak Flemish or French. It's the same with Brugge and Bruges, both names can be used, though in both these cases the clubs give preference to the Flemish – i.e. K.V. Kortrijk and Club Brugge KV.*

SIR — I am very interested in the West German Bundesliga and would like to know which teams make up their regional second division.

Stephen Cranmer,
Gosport, Hants.

** Gruppe Nord: Preussen Münster, Bayer Uerdingen, DSC Wanne-Eickel, Bayer Levenkusen, Rot-Weiss Essen, Westfalia Herne, Alemannia Aachen, Tennis Borussia Berlin, Hannover 96, Wacker 04 Berlin, FC St Pauli, Holstein Kiel, Wuppertal, VfL Osnabrück, Lüdensheid, Wattenscheid, Union Solingen, Fortuna Köln, Viktoria Köln, Arminia Hannover.*

Gruppe Süd: 1860 München, Spvg. Bayreuth, Karlruher SC, Wormatia Worms, Homburg FC, FC Saarbrücken, Kickers Offenbach, Spvg. Fürth, Stuttgart Kickers, Freibürger FC, SVW 07 Mannheim, SC Freiburg, Eintracht Trier, FSV Frankfurt, Ingolstadt, FV 04 Würzburg, FC Ausgburg, KSV Baunatal, Hanau 93, Borussia Neunkirchen.

SIR — Could you help settle a dispute please? We would like to know the ages and marital status of the Dutch footballers Rudi Krol and Rob Rensenbrink. I say both are over 30 and married but my friends seem to think Krol is in his 20s and Rensenbrink is single.

J. Stobart,
East Kilbride, Glasgow.

** Both are married. Rensenbrink was born on July 3, 1947, making him 31, while Krol was 30 on March 24 just gone.*

SIR — Is it possible to supply me with the two photographs of Mario Kempes and Daniel Passarella which appeared in the August issue of World Soccer?

Ian Handysides,
Hepburn, S. Tyneside.

** Unfortunately we are not able to supply pictures out of our own library. Perhaps you might contact UPI, Farringdon Street, London EC4 regarding those particular pictures.*

SIR — Can you send me any information or addresses where I can purchase any foreign football shirts — and in particular that of Holland?

M. B. Kiely,
Muxton, Telford, Salop.

** The best place to start if local shops fail you is the relevant football federation, who would be best able to advise you. For Holland, contact the KNVB, Woudenbergseweg 56-58, Zeist, Holland.*

THE LIBERTADORES CUP

Is Argentine dominance in danger this year?

asks ERIC WEIL

LEOPOLDO LUQUE

ARGENTINA, whose clubs have won the Libertadores Cup 12 times out of the 19 times it has been played for since 1960, have been more strongly represented in the past than this year.

Quilmes are taking part in the tournament for the first time (along with Ecuador's Tecnico Universitario, Paraguay's Sol de America and Brazil's Guarani) after qualifying as last season's Argentine first division champions (also for the fist time) while several of the stronger clubs were lining up reserves too often, showing more interest in the Libertadores Cup and tours abroad than the championship. Apart from their lack of international experience, they do not have a very strong playing staff for both cup and league play, although this season's less congested league programme is in their favour — and, at press time, they are unbeaten in three league games, but virtually out of the cup.

The Libertadores Cup has so far been won by only eight clubs — Independiente (Argentina) six times, Estudiantes de La Plata (Argentina) and Penarol (Uruguay) three each, Santos (Brazil) and Boca Juniors (Argentina) twice each, Racing (Argentina), Nacional (Uruguay) and Cruzeiro (Brazil) once each — from three countries (Argentina 12, Uruguay 4, Brazil 3).

Group 1: First round to Colombian clubs

Group 1 play started with Colombia's Deportivo Cali (coached by Argentine Eduardo Manera) and Millionarios (under Uruguayan Eduardo Hohberg) playing to a 1-1 draw with Argentine-born Irigoven equalising deservedly for the latter 10 minutes from the end.

In Argentina, Independiente beat Quilmes 2-1 on the latter's ground, showing their superior experience in the end when down to 10 men — defender Villaverde was sent off just after half-time — and Quilmes attacked more, but nervously against a calm Independiente defence which had, of course, been through a similar situation many times before.

Then the Argentine clubs went to Colombia and obtained only one point between them out of a possible eight which left Cali and Millionarios leading the group with five and four points respectively from three games at the halfway stage.

Independiente had what appeared to be a 3-1 winning lead against Millionarios 25 minutes from the end, helped by a four-minute penalty save by Baley (who was not too safe later) from Irigoyen and two goals from Alzamendi. But Independiente mistakenly defended the lead and Carra scored the equaliser with a tremendous 25-metre shot two minutes from the end.

Against Deportivo Cali during the same week, Independiente went down to an early goal (8 mins) from Argentine forward Nestor Scotta and the Colombians had an outstanding midfield performance from Umana. But Independiente might have done better if they had played less cautiously and thrown everything into attack against a not too sound Cali defence right after the early goal. Independiente's offensive was hampered later by Trossero being sent off when down to nine men they attacked more.

Outplayed

Quilmes also had a 2-1 lead up to 12 minutes from the end in the first match against Cali and mistakenly defended it to finish up 3-2 behind when the Colombian team's Argentine forwards, Scotta and Alvarez, scored within four minutes — the latter straight from a corner kick. Three days later Quilmes were outplayed after the first 30 minutes by Millionarios who scored a deserved winner from a penalty 10 minutes from the end. Protests against the penalty decision resulted in Graneros being sent off and an already tired 10-men Quilmes had nothing left to fight back.

But in remaining games the Colombian teams had to play both Argentine teams away and Independiente, with three points, are still favourites to win at home (although, with no points so far, they have lost their chance) and in this way winning the group to qualify for the semi-finals. Against the Argentine clubs is the fact that they have had several players sent off who will automatically be suspended — at least for one match.

Group 3: Alianza Lima makes early exit

While the Brazilian teams were favoured to get the better of the Peruvians in group 3, it was nevertheless a surprise to see Peruvian champions Alianza Lima losing their first three games — all at home — to go out of the competition early.

Alianza, lining up almost a complete team of World Cup players last year, have lost some to foreign clubs — notably Cubiillas, Sotil and Velazquez — but still looked a formidable side. Yet the first shock came when they were easily beaten 6-3 by vice-champions Universitario after taking a first-minute lead and only trailing 2-1 at half-time.

That the result was no fluke was brought home the following week when Brazilian champions Guarani easily beat Alianza 3-0, but four days later lost by the same score to Universitario — both matches being played in Lima. Then Palmeiras came to Lima to beat first Alianza 4-2 — easily after leading 3-0 at half-time — and then Universitario 5-2. Palmeiras, playing attacking soccer all the way, which is unusual for a visiting team in the cup, over-ran the Peruvians with midfielder Mendonca scoring five of the nine goals — all of which makes one of the Brazilian teams, with two home games each pending against the Peruvians, favourites to win the group.

Group 5: Between Penarol and Nacional

Although Uruguay's Penarol and Nacional had yet to play away matches in Ecuador, one of the two should make the semi-finals as group winners. In their first meeting — the first match in Group 5 — they drew 0-0 in a rough match with little good soccer. The second meeting between these two traditional rivals of Uruguayan soccer is likely to be the decider.

Ecuador's Tecnico Universitario, beaten 2-1 in their opening match by their country's champions, Nacional, lost both encounters in Montevideo and are virtually eliminated. Their close man-to-man marking failed to hold the faster and superior Peñarol who cruised to a 4-0 victory with three goals from Fernando Morena. They had no better luck against Nacional and only the latter's poorer team-work in attack kept the score down to 2-0.

A few days later Uruguay's Nacional also beat Ecuador's Nacional 3-0 with a hat-trick from Victorino to take over the top of the group with five points from three games, followed by Peñarol with three from two.

HUNGARY
by Leslie Vernon

Ujpest Dozsa lead the way

UJPEST DOZSA, once again, are beginning to dominate Hungarian League football. Placed third at the break last winter, they won their first six matches (!) of the spring campaign, and are now four points ahead of second-placed Ferencvaros.

While Dozsa prospers, Honved falters badly, Fradi are inconsistent, and provincial Diosgyor have emerged as realistic contenders for a medal position. The lilac-and-whites' improvement is partly due to the excellent form of their forward trio, in which Torocsik is back at his best, Fazekas, although his international career is over, is still a potential match-winner, and Fekete is scoring goals with remarkable consistency.

The most praiseworthy feature of Dozsa's play has been their ambitious approach to away fixtures. No longer satisfied with salvaging a point, they won at such 'difficult' places as Gyor, Salgotarjan and Tatabanya.

Pleasingly, their outstanding performer in these hard-fought battles was their young goalkeeper, Zoltan Toth, son of a well-known ex-international goalie, Gyorgy Toth. Dad must be very proud of his boy's progress — more so, since he is still giving the lad some useful private tuition.

Ferencvaros opened the campaign with a modest 1-0 win over Salgotarjan, then promptly lost to a last minute goal against lowly Mav Elore. Tibor Nyilasi played quite brilliantly in their next match, when he scored four times in the away fixture at Tatabanya, where the final score was 5-1 to the Greens! A 3-1 victory over Dunaujvaros was followed by an unexpected 2-0 defeat at Videoton.

Here, Baranyi, the home side's full-back, was sent-off by referee Palotai, for aiming a kick at Szokolai. But, despite playing with ten men for sixty minutes, 'Vidi', as they are nicknamed, held out — not a very flattering outcome for 'Fradi'.

Finally, the Balint team drew with up-and-coming Diosgyor 1-1 — seven points out of a possible 12. Honved have been, however, the biggest flops of the season so far. Starting the 'second-half' of the championship race in the 'yellow jersey' position, they promptly lost their first game 3-0 at Tatabanya.

Three consecutive drawn games against Pecs, Haladas and Csepel were further signs of a rapid decline, and even their 1-0 victory over wooden-spoonists, Vasas Izzo was a result of an incredible goalkeeping blunder by Izzo 'keeper, Fekete.

Yet another defeat at Salgotarjan ensured that the Army-team were out of the championship race, and even their UEFA-Cup place is in danger, because Diosgyor collected eight points in six matches, and are now only one point behind Honved.

No real 'derby' games have been played yet, and a great deal can happen when the top teams clash in the traditional double-headers in the Nepstadion. But Dozsa's lead is 'money in the bank', and the championship is usually won in these bread-and-butter encounters against lesser opposition.

There is a real dog-fight in the relegation zone, seven or eight teams could be involved in 'Houdini act' around the end of the season. But Izzo's fate is already sealed, Haladas seem to be condemned to Second Division football as well, and the fight mainly centres around the third relegation spot, currently occupied by Mav Elore.

Even Vasas and MTK-VM are not free from worry in that direction — a sad indictment of their decline.

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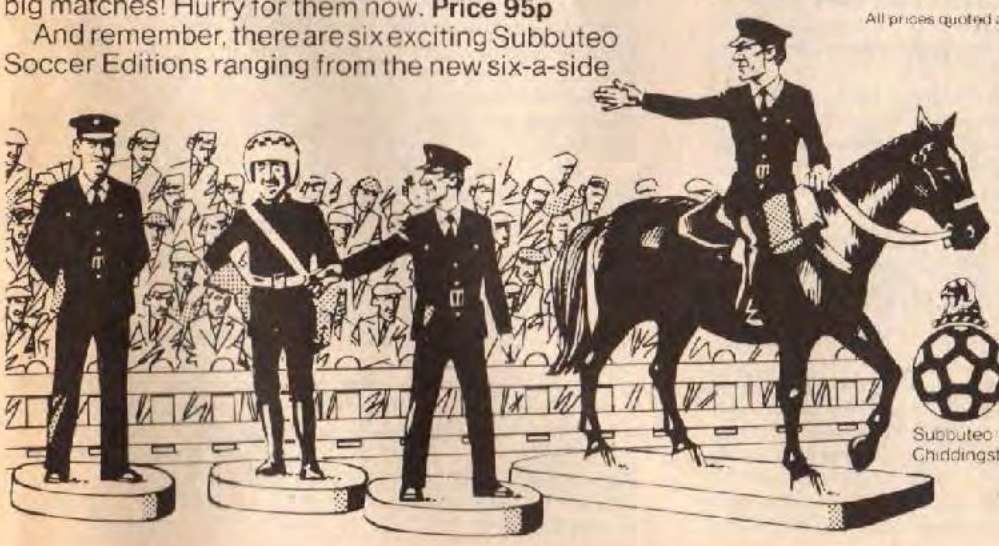

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Sir Stanley is 'Big Chief'

GLOBE trotting 84 year old honorary President of FIFA, Sir Stanley Rous, CBE, attended the annual meeting of the Canadian Soccer Association in Montreal and then moved on to Toronto's luxurious Harbour Castle Hilton for the yearly 'bash' of Ontario's whistle blowers.

Accepting membership in the Provinces Referees' Association, Sir "Big Chief" Rous told them that a gift of an Indian Head dress was appreciated . . . "If I have trouble getting a ticket for the F.A. Cup then I can frighten them into letting me in!"

Asked about T.V. rights for the World Cup in Spain, Sir Stanley received a standing ovation by announcing: "I have been in touch with FIFA Secretary Dr Helmut Kaiser and these will not be subcontracted as was the case in Argentina, FIFA having decided that Canada and the USA must have proper coverage from Spain."

North American Soccer League Commissioner Phil Woosnam was praised for his efforts to expand the game. "He has really developed the sport here and it was a wonderful sight to see 65,000 fans at the Giants Stadium for Soccer Bowl '78, a far cry from my tour with the England team 20 years ago when only 7,000 fans attended the game."

Dealing with NASL rule changes Sir Stanley voiced concern. "We (FIFA) have spoken to Woosnam on several occasions but he seems to want to carry on with them. I feel gimmicks should not be introduced into the game in order to sell it. Woosnam realizes that it (rule changes) will be confusing when his players appear at the international level."

Low sco unlucky

THE North American Soccer League opened its thirteenth season on March 24 with three games, all of them low scoring affairs. Memphis beat the Philadelphia Fury 1-0 with a goal from Nigerian born Chris Nwokocha in extra time, San Diego beat the California Surf by the same score with the goal coming from Peter Nover, while the Dallas Tornado beat the Detroit Express 1-0 on a penalty kick by Brazilian Zequinha in the 32nd minute.

One day later the Washington Diplomats beat the Fort Lauderdale Strikers 2-1 thanks to a goal from Jozsef Horvath in extra time. Earlier Bobby Stokes had given Washington the lead but Gary Jones tied the score for the Strikers to send the game into extra time.

The new Toronto team made its debut one week later in the Astrodome against the Houston Hurricane, but in a dismal, badly played game that lacked a sense of reality were beaten in a shoot out 2-1.

Of course it is far too early to get any sort of idea as to how things will go for each of the teams this year based on these few results, and it is very hard to forecast how things will work out in the NASL from year to year because of the constant changes.

In addition, teams which start the year badly can also go out and buy players, particularly when the European season is over, to give the club a totally different look from when the season began. Nevertheless here is some idea of how the 24 teams stack up division by division as the season gets underway.

A strike by players of the NASL Players Association is still very much a reality, but just what an effect this would have on the overall operation of the league remains to be seen.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Eastern Division

The New York Cosmos are heavily favoured here to win this group and go on to win their third NASL championship in a row, but it will not be as easy as it looks to some people. In fact the Cosmos are not as good a team as is generally supposed and they could be pushed into second place in this division by the Washington Diplomats. Toronto and Rochester will fight it out for the bottom two spots.

New York Cosmos: Internal bickering and feuding, always a problem in a team of superstars, seems to be on the increase this year and may yet be the undoing of the Cosmos. Beckenbauer is still said to be unhappy about playing in the midfield and wants a return to striker, while Giorgio Chinaglia is said to be unhappy with the coaching of Eddie Firmani.

On the teams pre-season swing through the Caribbean and South America the team had two players sent off and lost another to a red card in the game against Detroit which the Cosmos lost 8-2.

Washington Diplomats: There is nothing the Diplomats coach Gordon Bradley would like better than to push his old club, the Cosmos, into second place and this is the year it could happen with Washington having a solid look. Attempts to sign Kevin Keegan and Daniel Passarella failed and Bradley might yet find that to be to his advantage.

At the moment the nearest thing he has to a superstar is former Hungarian international Jozsef Horvath signed from Rochester and he scored the winning goal in the Diplomats 3-2 win over Fort Lauderdale in their opener.

Toronto Blizzard: Very little can be expected of Toronto this season as the Blizzard replaces the former Metros-Croatia franchise. There has been a massive clear out of players with the Croatian look being replaced with the British look as former Sheffield United player Keith Eddy takes over as coach.

His most important signing is Peter Lorimer from Leeds but Toronto badly needs midfield players who can supply the ammunition for Lorimer to fire. However, the Blizzard should improve on their dismal performance against the equally poor Houston Hurricane in their opening game with players like Marinho (ex Sporting Lisbon), Tito (ex Vitoria Guimaraes) and Jim Bone from St Mirren likely to arrive shortly.

ring — is it number 13?

NASL report from COLIN JOSE

Rochester Lancers: As usual the Lancers have a strong looking team on paper but once again it is a question as to whether they can transform this into results on the field.

Internal troubles are part of the problem here with a large turnover of players each year. Recently the Lancers have signed U.S. goalkeeper Shep Messing (ex Cosmos), striker Fred Grgurev (ex Cosmos) and defenders Dave D'Errico from New England and Damir Sutevski from Toronto. The Lancers lost their opening game to Philadelphia 3-0.

Central Division

This promises to be the most closely contested race in the entire six divisions with little to choose between Dallas, Tulsa and Minnesota while Atlanta bring up the rear.

Dallas Tornado: After two seasons in the doldrums the owners of the Tornado have opened their cheque books and signed a host of new players with the possibility of more to come. For coach Al Miller it is a do well or bust situation as his job is on the line.

Still, it is never easy to put together a group of new players and expect instant success, but Dallas did win their opener 1-0 over Detroit and that should inspire confidence.

Alex Stepney will vie with long time Dallas favourite Ken Cooper for the goalkeeping job, while Helmut Kremers signed from Schalke should strengthen the defence.

Other new signings are a trio of Brazilians; Jairo obtained from the Portuguese club Porto and Zequinha and Milton from Sao Paulo. Dallas is reportedly trying to sign Luis Andreuchi who scored 21 goals for Quilmes in Argentina last season. If Dallas can put it all together they should be very strong.

Tulsa Roughnecks: Under new coach Alan Hinton the Roughnecks should improve over last season's encouraging performance both on and off the field and make a real challenge for the division championship.

Hinton has put a solid and experienced team together and will have former Welsh international Terry Hennessey as his assistant. Players such as Colin Boulton, David Nish, Terry Darracott, Steve Powell, Alan Woodward, Don O'Riordan, Steve Earle, Wayne Hughes and Sammy Chapman have all had considerable experience and should do very well in this league.

Minnesota Kicks: Perennially one of the strongest teams on the field and off it, the extremely well run Minnesota operation can never be written off. However, they are up against tough opposition this year in Dallas and Tulsa and new coach Roy McCrohan will have his work cut out for him.

Basically the Kicks have the same players as last season and this can spell trouble in the NASL as the standard of the top teams keeps moving up each year. Only new signing of note is Swedish international Bjorn Nordqvist, who joins players like Geoff Barnett, Alan Merrick, Willie Morgan, Alan West and Alan Willey.

Atlanta Chiefs: In what seems like a different age now the Chiefs won the NASL championship in 1968 under coach Phil Woosnam, who is now the League's commissioner. But since that time the franchise has folded only to be brought back to life again this season with the transfer of the Colorado team to Georgia.

American coach Dan Wood has his hands full here with a predominently American team which should find the going very tough indeed.

Western Division

Vancouver who finished with the same record as the Cosmos last season of 24 wins and six defeats and then surprisingly lost to Portland in the play offs have strengthened their team this season and should win the west again. Seattle with a stronger team should take second spot while Portland are capable of upsetting either one. With their present roster the Los Angeles Aztecs will be hard pressed to stay in the race.

Vancouver Whitecaps: Tony Waiters has added Trevor Whymark, Roger Kenyon, Ray Lewington and now Willie Johnston to an already strong line up from last season that included goalkeeper Phil Parkes (ex-Wolves), John Craven, Jon Sammels, Kevin Hector, Peter Daniel and Canadian international Bobby Lenarduzzi, and the Whitecaps should repeat as champions.

Seattle Sounders: Last season the Sounders stood pat and ran into trouble but this year they are not making that mistake and as a result should provide the main challenge to the Whitecaps.

Coach Jim Gabriel's big signing is Alan Hudson from Arsenal, while other new players on Puget Sound are Jimmy Neighbour, John Ryan, Frank Barton, John Impey, Derek Smethurst and U.S. international captain Al Trost.

Portland Timbers: Thanks to the coaching of Don Megson, Portland were a very good team last season and a team without superstars.

Megson will have basically the same team again this year and it remains to be seen if the Timbers led by Clyde Best can do as well.

Los Angeles Aztecs: Rinus Michels takes over the Aztecs and with the exception of two signings from Holland and one from Yugoslavia has more or less the same line up that fared so poorly last season.

Unless Michels can work a miracle or sign a host of new players as the season progresses it is hard to see the Aztecs seriously challenging the other three teams with their present roster.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

This promises to be a four way race with the Fort Lauderdale Strikers having the edge over the other three teams. It is a toss up for second spot between Tampa Bay and New England while the Philadelphia Fury could push one of them out should one of them slip.

Fort Lauderdale Strikers: George Best, Gerd Muller and Teofilo Cubillas in one team; it promises to be interesting. Ron Newman, who succeeded in getting Best to play well for him during the latter half of last season after his transfer from the Aztecs, is a coach who gets a little bit extra out of his players and if anyone can make this trio work then he is the man who can do it.

At the moment the Strikers have a question mark hanging over their defence where the back four may not be up to top NASL standard, but with U.S. international Arnold Mausser in goal and a player like Ray Hudson in midfield the Strikers might go all the way to the Soccer Bowl if Newman can put it all together.

Tampa Bay Rowdies: Tampa have always been one of the better teams in the NASL, first under Eddie Firmani and now under Gordon Jago who took them to their second Soccer Bowl last season in what he considered a rebuilding year.

A number of last year's team will not be returning with the most noteable absentee being Graham Paddon, perhaps the best midfield player in the league last season. Much will depend this year on Rodney Marsh with Jago having signed very few replacements as yet for his departing players. One noteable newcomer is Petar Baralic from Red Star.

New England Teamen: Noel Cantwell will have most of last year's players returning but as I write a question mark still hangs over Mike Flanagan, last year's 'Most Valuable Player'.

From an almost totally British line up last year the Teamen have taken on a slight Portuguese flavour this year in deference to the large Portuguese community in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Jordao and Manuel Fernandes have been signed from Sporting Lisbon as has Mali born Salif Keita. The Teamen did well in 1978 and should be in the running again this year.

Philadelphia Fury: As one might expect with Marko Valok from Yugoslavia as their new coach the Fury now have some Yugoslavs in their line up and this should strengthen the team considerably, but at the moment it is hard to see them as a team challenging the other three teams. The Fury, however, should be watched with interest.

NEXT MONTH: Central and Western Divisions

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW

HOLLAND, Spain and Czechoslovakia took important steps towards the European championship finals as the international programme returned to full swing in March and early April.

The Dutch left it late before grabbing two of the three goals which sunk Switzerland, but as Swiss midfielder Umberto Barberis said: "We might as well have gone home when they went 1-0 up."

Under Jan Zwartkruis Holland seem to have regained a little of the entrancing poise which tended to be overshadowed by the more physical side of their game in Argentina.

And all those who remember the brilliant 1976 finals in which Holland and Czechoslovakia participated can only have been pleased to see the holders pulling themselves up into a position of strength in the own group.

France once again promised much but provided little and the knives are out for manager Michel Hidalgo following the 2-0 defeat in Bratislava.

While Spain secured their position by taking a point in Rumania the situation is also looking good in group seven for Wales — though not so much thanks to their own achievements, but because of the failings of West Germany.

I found the Germans' failure to take both points in Turkey more surprising than their previous 0-0 draw in Malta. Manager Jupp Derwell introduced more new faces at senior level in forwards Kelsch and Borchers — the Eintracht Frankfurt man who was still playing in the amateurs nine months ago. Little good it did them, and the Germans must pull up their socks on May 2 in Wrexham if they are to spoil the Welsh prospects of a surprise.

FEBRUARY 28

Bursa
Turkey 0
Algeria 1 (Redouane 77)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000.

TROUBLE for Turkey, preparing for their European championship ties with Malta and West Germany. On the night before the game senior players Kemal and Engin were caught out after curfew and on the field the team never displayed any sort of cohesion. Full backs Turgay and Erdogan and wingers Necdet and Mustafa were far below their best. Manager Sabri Kiraz — who offered his resignation afterwards in protest at token punishments on Kemal and Engin — blamed the winter break. There was also the absence through injury for almost all the season so far of record international and captain Cemil.

For the Algerians a goal out of the blue from Redouane, with a deflection from Guemri's cross shot, did the damage.

IN the Euro-history feature in the April edition of 'World Soccer' the following alterations should be made. The goals total of Aguas (Benfica) should read 18. Lubanski (Gornik) scored *one* goal in 1971-72 and *five* in 1972-73.

MARCH 15

Bratislava
Czechoslovakia 1 (Masny 86)
Spain 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Padar (Hungary).

THIS was the seventh game between the nations and the fifth win for the Czechs. That their win was a reflection of their domination of the game is clear from the corner count — 13-1 for the Czechs.

Spanish boss Ladislao Kubala was back in Bratislava for the first time since beginning his international career back in 1946 playing for the Czechs, but what remained of his local knowledge was of little use.

Despite the determined play of sweeper Alesanco, left back San Jose and striker Santillana, the Spaniards were generally in retreat before the skilful approach work of the inevitable Marian Masny and Zdenek Nehoda. After only 12 minutes Vojacek hit the post and in the 28th goalkeeper Arconada — in for the injured Miguel Angel — saved well from Gajdusek.

A bottle was thrown on the pitch after Nehoda was felled by substitute Felipe from Las Palmas in the 80th minute, but the Czechs had their deserved reward soon after when Masny finally hit a shot which beat both goalkeeper and woodwork.

Czechoslovakia: Netolicka (Keketi 46) — Barmos, Vojacek (Panenka 46), Ondrus, Gogh (Jurkamik 46) — Rott, Stambachr, Kozak — Masny, Nehoda, Gajdusek (Vizek 51).

Spain: Arconada (Urruti 46) — Marcelino, Migueli (Felipe 52), Alesanco, San Jose — Villar, Del Bosque (Moran 46), Asensi — Dani (Lopez Ufarte 46), Sabtillana (Alonso 46), Cundi.

MARCH 18

Izmir — European ch'ship group 7
Turkey 2 (Sedat 34, Fatih 56)
Malta 1 (Spiteri-gonzi 54)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Manojlovski (Yug).

TURKEY scraped in, despite allowing Malta their first away goal in Europe for 17 years — since, in fact, their 6-1 defeat by Denmark in March 1962 in Copenhagen. Three bookings kept Slav referee Manojlovski busy, while sweeper Fatih was the best Turk, appropriately enough heading their winner.

MARCH 21

Bucharest
Rumania 3 (Dumitru 5, Balsac 44, Georgescu 84)
Greece 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Lucov (Bulgaria).

GREECE sent out a young side — average age 23.5 years — in this return for last December's game, which they won in Athens. However Rumania, with Stefan Kovacs putting out his young-and-old mixture, were far too sharp. Marcu provided the cross for Dumitru to head the first and though Galakos wasted a 34th-minute chance to level, the Rumanians went ahead just before the break. Lucescu laid on the opening for Balsac to score from close range. Nikoloudis and Damanakis could have snatched one back for Greece after the interval but were too hasty in their finishing and Dudu Georgescu rounded it all off.

Rumania: Lsugu — Tilsochoi, Vigu, Sames, Didu — Lucescu, Balsac, Boloni — Georgescu, Dumitru, Marcu.

Greece: Constantinou — Gounaris, Iosifides, Firos, Ravousis, Kusulsakis, Kulis, Lalvathinos, Nikoloudis, Damanakis, Galakos.

MARCH 22

Algiers
Algeria 0
Poland 1 (Lato 5)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000

MARCH 28

Eindhoven — European ch'ship group 4
Holland 3 (Kist 55, Metgod 84, Peters 89)
Switzerland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 27,000. **Ref:** Hunting (Eng).

HOLLAND spent all the game attacking, and if their attack lacked a little penetration, they finally wore down the Swiss part-timers to take control of the group.

Goalkeeper Erich Burgener was Switzerland's hero, his work starting as early as the 11th minute with a good save from a Rob Resenbrink free kick. The Swiss rallied a little before half-time. Dutch skipper Wim Jansen — leading them in the continued injury absence of Rudi Krol — was booked for fouling Umberto Barberis in the 35th minute, and Barberis — none the worse — got up to shoot just wide in the 39th.

The second half was interrupted in the 50th minute by a bizarre incident when two men tried to bring on a banner protesting about the treatment of political prisoners in Switzerland, but it did more harm to their football team then their government.

Five minutes later, their concentration upset, the Swiss were caught wide open as Kees Kist headed in Jansen's free kick for goal No. 1. The Dutch then had to wait until the final six minutes before Johnny Metgod — on as substitute — and Jan Peters put the result beyond dispute.

Holland: Schrijvers — Wildschut (Stevens 85), Brandts, Jansen, Poortvliet — Neeskens, W. Van der Kerkhof (Metgod 54), Peters — R. Van der Kerkhof, Kist, Rensenbrink.

Switzerland: Burgener — Brechbuehl (Ponte 66), Chapuisat, Montandon, Bizzini (Wehrli 58) — Botteron, Barberis, Hermann, Schnyder — Sulser, Elsener.

Brussels — European ch'ship group 2
Belgium 1 (Vandereycken 21 pen)
Austria 1 (Krankl 61)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 9,900. **Ref:** Franco Martinez (Spain).

AUSTRIA went level at the top of the group alongside Portugal on points, but had played one game more. As for Belgium, the result was further confirmation of the harm the surreptitious but steady influx of foreigners is having on their game. With few outstanding

West Germany's Dietz (left) and Fischer.

forwards of their own to choose from, manager Guy Thys was forced into recalling Jean Janssens, of Beveren — nine years after his last cap!

As it happened Janssens began strongly and Austrian goalkeeper Friedl Koncilia had to make two good early stops from him as well as another from Francois Van der Elst. But after that the Belgian attack started to lose its fire, even if they did go ahead from a penalty by Vandereycken after Bruno Pezzey fouled Van der Elst.

A goal down, the Austrians started to find their feet. As if inspired by necessity, they moved more boldly into attack. Pezzey was just wide on the half-hour then Belgian goalkeeper Jean-Marie Pfaff saved well in quick succession from Schachner, Mirnegg and Kreuz.

In the 40th minute Schachner cracked one drive against the bar, and though Walter Meeuws did the same at the other end four minutes later, the Austrians were good value for their Hans Krankl equaliser, set up by Roland Hattenberger, after 16 minutes of the second half.

Vandereycken could have put Belgium back in front eight minutes from time, but despite being clear through he shot weakly at Konsilia, and the draw was a fair result.

Belgium: Pfaff — Gerets, Meeuws, Bross, Renquin — Cools (Geunts 71), Vandereycken, Vercauteren, Cluytens — Vander Elst, Janssens.

Austria: Koncilia — Sara, Obermayer, Pezzy, Mirnegg — Hattenberger, Baumeister, Weber, Kreuz — Schachner, Krankl.

Budapest
Hungary 3 (Torocsik 16, Tieber 59, Tatar 75)
E. Germany 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,479.

A minor landmark — Andras Torocsik scoring his first goal in his first international since his reprieve nine months after his year's ban for that World Cup expulsion.

E. Germany: Rudwaleith (Grapenthin 46) — Fischer (Weber 46), Drner, Schneider, Baum — Häfner, Lindemann, Schade — Peter (Kutte 46), Streich, Hoffmann.

Simferopol
Russia 3 (Blokhin 5, Shengelia 7, Gavrilov 83)
Bulgaria 1 (Ranov 29)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 35,000

APRIL 1

Nicosia — European ch'ship group 3
Cyprus 0
Yugoslavia 3 (Vujovic 40, 79, Surjak 82 pen)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,500. **Ref:** Padar (Hungary).

MILJAN Miljanic saw his Yugoslavia to a winning recovery — after two defeats — in the first match since his decision to refuse Chelsea and pick up the reins again at home.

Debut boy Vujovic, only 20, scored the first after skipper Ivica Surjak beat three men before hitting a hard low cross into the penalty box. Vujovic's second following an intricate twist and turn through the Cypriot defence, while Surjak hit the third from a penalty after a needless handling offence by Miamiliotis.

Cyrpus: Phanos — Kalotheou, Violaris, Stefanos, Pandjaris, Gregory, Miamiliotis, Kalimeras, Kissonerghis, Koudas, Kanaris.

Yugoslavia: Svilar — Hadzic, Starovlah, Stojkovic, Peruzovic, Muzinic, Vujovic, Surkov, Savic, Mirocevic, Surjak.

Izmir — European ch'ship group 7
Turkey 0
W. Germany 0
Att: 50,000. **Ref:** Stupa (Russia)

A terrible disappointment for Jupp Derwall's men, who had been desperate to make up for their failure to win in Malta. The dominated from start to finish, but couldn't finish-off. The result left the Germans holding two points, and Wales on four — each having played twice.

The nearest the Germans came was in the 11th minute when Zimmermann hit a post. Rummenigge missed a fine chance with only Senol to beat soon after, but as the match dragged on only the free kicks of Rainer Bonhof had the Turks worried.

Bonhof was, along with sweeper Uli Stielike, the best of the Germans. But even he slipped up in the 70th minute, presenting Cemil with an open goal after a slack pass. Fortunately Cemil took so long trying to make sure of the goal that Stielike — deputising for the injured Zewe — nipped across to intercept.

Turkey: Senol — Turgay, Fatih, Necati, Cem — Engin, Sedat III, Onal — Necdet (Tuna 73), Cemil, Büyük Mustafa.

W. Germany: Burdenski — Kaltz, Bonhof, Stielike, Dietz — Cullmann, Zimmermann (Forster 73), H. Müller — Rummenigge (Kelsch 69), Toppmöller, Borchers.

APRIL 4

Craiova — European ch'ship group 3
Rumania 2 (Georgescu 57 pen and 65)
Spain 2 (Dani 59 and 70)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Van Langenhove (Hol).

SPAIN took a valuable step towards the finals in a rough game which saw five men booked and Crisan and San Jose sent off for fighting. The Spaniards were once very bad travellers, but manager Ladislao Kubala seems to have found some sort of solution.

Bravely he sent out a comparatively inexperienced team in the Central stadium in Craiova, to which the match had been surprisingly switched from Bucharest a fortnight before.

Perhaps Stefan Kovacs counted on the trip into provincial Rumania unsettling the Spaniards. But his own men couldn't take advantage as Dumitru and Dinu wasted early chances.

All the action came in the second half. In the 50th minute Kovacs sent on Crisan for Lucescu and seven minutes later Crisan was felled by San Jose and Dudu Georgesuc rapped in the penalty.

A minute later mayhem was let loose as Crisan and San Jose scrapped and were sent off by the Dutch referee. Spain immediately brought on Gijon full back Cundi as substitute for Del Bosque, to drop back and fill the place left by San Jose — who has only recently overcome a four-game UEFA tournament ban.

One minute more and Bilbao striker Dani equalised!

Rumania kept their cool and went ahead again through Georgescu converting a Dinu pass, but again it was Dani who was quick to hit back. This time he took a pass from Cundi to strike in a drive from the edge of the penalty box.

Rumania: Lungu — Zamfir, Sames, Dinu, Lucuta — Dumitru (Stefanescu 80), Romila, Boloni — Lucescu (Crisan 50), Georgescu, Marcu.

Spain: Arconada — San Jose, Alesanco, Felipe, Marcelino — Asensi, Del Bosque (Cundi 56), Villar — Quini (Carrasco 87), Ruben Cano, Dani.

Bratislava — Euro ch'ship group 5
Czechoslovakia 2 (Panenka 67, Stambachr 72)
France 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Aldinger (WG).

CZECHOSLOVAKIA, reigning champions, took a major step back towards the finals with their first win over the French in 19 years.

The Czechs hauled themselves into control and after Antonin Panenka beat Dropsy with the penalty after a foul on Marian Masny, the French were finished.

Panenka's penalty was reminiscent of the one which provided the Czechs' European title in 1976 — if the goalkeeper hadn't dived he might well have saved simply by standing still!

Five minutes later it *was* all over as Frantisek Stambachr slammed in a 30-yard drive.

Marc Berdoll and fit-again Michel Platini both went close as Michel Hidalgo's men put up a belated fight, but by then it was too late.

Czechoslovakia: Netolicka — Barmos, Ondrus, Vojacek, Goegh — Kozak, Panenka, Stambachr — Masny, Nehoda, Gajdusek.

France: Dropsy — Domenech, Lopez, Spacht, Bossis — Petit, Larios, Platini — Emon, Berdoll, Amisse.

EURO HISTORY

KEIR RADNEDGE continues his series on the important dates and details, facts and fixtures, of European football. This month Part Three — The History of the Mitropa Cup.

WORLD SOCCER EXCLUSIVE FEATURE

The forerunner of competition in Europe . . .

IT'S SOMETIMES hard to believe that the competition which is now dismissed as less than a consolation prize was once the greatest in Europe.

Hard to believe that in some cases league matches were fixed because a place was so important; hard to believe that it's now 55 years since Hugo Meisl first put forward the idea which would later blossom into the Champions' Cup, the Cup-winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup.

Meisl's idea was the Mitropa Cup — a knock-out competition for the clubs of central Europe (hence the name, Mitteleuropa). And with so much time, effort and money expended now in the organisation of the three European club cups, it's high time a record was made of the Mitropa before its fame is lost altogether.

Tracing back for details was not easy and those I did find frequently proved inaccurate in one way or another. Fortunately I was given a great deal of assistance by the Österreichischer Fussball-Bund and their general secretary Otto Demuth. As he warned me though, "the difficulty with Mitropa statistics is the changing of the organisation of the competition each year between the member associations."

What happens is that Austria, Yugoslavia, Italy and Hungary take it in turns to organise the Mitropa and only the Austrians appear to have kept full records.

That, I suppose, is as it should be, since it was in Vienna that the show began.

Meisl was the delicate son of a wealthy Jewish banking family who showed little interest in the family firm, but plenty in football. For several years his father tried to separate him from his sports administration but eventually had to give in, and in the late 1920s Meisl became secretary of the Austrian federation as well as manager of the national team. Meisl it was who cleared the way for open professionalism in 1924, and with neighbours Hungary and Czechoslovakia on the brink of accepting paid football first suggested the Mitropa Cup in 1924.

Meisl suggested the two-leg knock-out formula with which we're now familiar, and with the touring visits of leading British clubs such as Arsenal, Huddersfield and Rangers in mind envisaged that one day the Mitropa would extend across Europe.

The mid-1920s were important years for football. In 1925 the offside law was altered, professionalism — as we have seen — became accepted, and at last in July 1927 the concerned football authorities agreed to set up a Mitropa Cup committee and put Meisl's ideas into practice.

The competition began that year.

1927: Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia each put forward two teams. They would be the champions and runners-up or champions and cup-winners. So eight clubs entered the first edition of a competition which would soon draw spectators from neutral countries, a competition which boasted in the mid-1930s the first live radio broadcast of football on the continent, a competition whose popularity and importance would be underlined by the unfortunate incidents which have smeared the game's reputation over the years.

Competition began in August and ended in November and there were, naturally, teething problems. No one had seriously envisaged that teams might finish level after two games. But in the semi-finals Hungaria of Budapest (later Voros Lobogo/Red Banner then MTK) drew 2-2, 0-0 with Sparta Prague and it was on the toss of a coin that the Czechs went into the final against Rapid Vienna.

The Hungarians were furious — though the coin provided a form of rough justice, since their stop-them-at-all-costs tactics in the second leg in Vienna had incensed the Austrian fans, who pelted the Hungarians with rubbish.

Sparta had been founded in 1893 and had been the winners of the first Czech championship in 1919. They still exist as Sparta today, but they have gone through several name changes and today's Sparta has little in common with the first Mitropa winners.

If they had been lucky to reach the final, there was no doubting their win over Rapid. The Czechs won 6-2 in Prague, losing narrowly 2-1 in Vienna, where their rough tackling provoked a hail of stones, fruit and bottles from the crowd. Centre half Kada had to be carried off after being struck on the head by a missile and the demonstrations which continued long after the game soured Austro-Czech football relations for some time.

First round: Hungaria bt Beogradski 4-2 4-0 — Rapid-Hajduk 8-1 1-0 — Sparta-Admira 5-1 3-5 — Slavia-Ujpest 4-0 2-2. **Semi-finals:** Hungaria-Sparta 2-2 0-0 — Slavia-Rapid 2-2 1-2. **Final:** Sparta-Rapid 6-2 1-2.
Sparta: Hochmann — Burger, Perner — Kolenaty, Kada, Hajny — Patek, Sima, Miclik, Sylny, Horeja.

1928: After the toss-of-a-coin fiasco of the previous year it was agreed that should two teams be level after the second leg, then a play-off should be arranged. And in fact Rapid Vienna, on the way to their second successive defeat in the final, needed the third game in both the first round and semi-final.

Once in the final however they were hammered 7-1 in Budapest by Ferencvaros and the 5-3 win in Vienna was little consolation.

Ferencvaros, otherwise known as FTC — Ferencvaros Torn Club — were inspired to victory by their centre half Martin Bukovi. An accomplished all-round sportsman, Bukovi had begun his career with Ferencvaros, leaving briefly in the mid-1920s to return when the Hungarians embraced professionalism. Later he made his name a second time as a coach, working in Yugoslavia, Greece as well as his native Hungary.

At this time he was considered the best Hungarian half-back ever. Since automatic entry for the holders did not apply, Sparta were missing from the competition. The Czech entries were Slavia and Viktoria-Zizkov.

First round: Admira-Slavia 3-1 3-3 — Rapid-Hungaria 6-4 1-3 1-0 — Beogradski-Ferencvaros 0-7 1-6 — Gradjanski-Viktoria-Zizkov 3-2 1-6. **Semi-finals:** Viktoria Zizkov-Rapid 4-3 2-3 1-3 — Admira-Ferencvaros 1-2 0-1. **Final:** Ferencvaros-Rapid 7-1 3-5.
Ferencvaros: Amsel — Takacs I, Hungler — Lyka, Bukovi, Berkessi — Raszo, Takacs II, Turay, Sedlaczek, Kohuth.

1929: After their hammerings the previous years — such as the 13-1 aggregate thrashing of Beogradski (later Partizan) by Ferencvaros in 1928 — the Yugoslavs pulled out. Many of their best players had (even then!) emigrated to France, and so Italy stepped in, with Juventus and Genova completing the eight.

Again the holders, in this case Ferencvaros, were absent, but Sparta were back, only to be rudely knocked out by Ujpest 1-6, 2-0 in the first round. The Hungarians went on to beat Slavia 5-1, 2-2 in the final thanks to the defensive prowess of Karoly Fogl and the organisation of outside left Peter Sabo.

The story of Fogl goes that referees used to refuse to allow him to captain Ujpest because his handshake was so powerful! Whether that's true or not, it is certain that Sabo was the most experienced of Ujpest's players internationally, having played previously in the Mitropa for Ferencvaros and before that in Germany with Nurnberg's 1920 championship team, Eintracht Frankfurt and Wacker Munich.

Despite Sabo and Fogl, though, Ujpest made hard work of their semi-final against Rapid Vienna. When Italian referee Carraro failed to arrive in Budapest in time for the first leg, local official Majorsky took charge. Ujpest won 2-1, but Rapid protested and the Mitropa committee recorded the result as a 0-0 draw.

Rapid thought they were in the final after winning the return 3-2, but Ujpest then had the original first leg result reinstated. A play-off in Prague was ordered. Rapid threatened to pull out in disgust, played grudgingly after persuasion from Meisl, and lost 3-1.

First round: Ujpest-Sparta 6-1 0-2 — Hungaria-Vienna 1-4 1-2 — Rapid-Genoa 5-1 0-0 — Juventus-Slavia 1-0

0-3. **Semi-finals:** Vienna-Slavia 3-2 2-4 — Ujpest-Rapid 2-1 2-3 3-1. **Final:** Ujpest-Slavia 5-1 2-2.

Ujpest: Acht — Kovago, Fogl III — Borsanyi Köves, Wilhelm — Ströck, Auer, Meszaros, Spitz, Sabo.

1930: The final provided a repeat of the first Mitropa final, but this time Rapid beat Sparta for Austria's first victory.

It wasn't easy, Rapid did well to win 2-0 in Prague, then lost 3-2 at home, winning 4-3 on aggregate. Again the crowd pelted the Czechs with rubbish in anger at some of their tackling and the police became so worried about keeping control that they refused to let Dr Josef Gero, president of the Mitropa committee, make the trophy presentation on the pitch.

For the first time the holders were there to try to retain their trophy. Ujpest had already won the Europe Tournament in Geneva, beating Slavia in the final in a repeat of the Mitropa. The first round of the new Mitropa did not however augur well for their chances.

Ambrosiana-Inter of Milan came to Budapest for the first leg and won 4-2, despite being reduced to 10 men by a knee injury to full back Gianfardoni. However the Hungarians scored an identical win in the return in the Arena in Milan. The Italians were wild. Rivolta broke a wrist, goalkeeper Degani was flattened by centre forward Stoiffan as one Ujpest goal went in and goal No 4 came after a penalty controversially given away by poor Gianfardoni. The play-off in Berne finished 1-1, and the second play-off, by toss of a coin, returned to Milan.

Ambrosiana won 5-3 and went through to the semi-final against Sparta. The teams drew 2-2 in the Arena, with Ambrosiana losing both Degani and his substitute Smerzi because of injury. They were constrained to *advertise* in the local Press for a replacement! The man who came forward, Pietro Miglio, from little Crocetta of Turin, was their best player in the second leg in Prague, but nevertheless Sparta won 6-1!

In the final Rapid took revenge for 1927. This was the era of the famous national Wunderteam, created by Meisl and the English coach Jimmy Hogan. Outstanding for Rapid was centre half Pepi Smistik, while right half was Karl Rappan, who would later move onto Switzerland where he played for Servette and Grasshoppers, coached the national team to several notable successes, and perfected the 'Swiss Bolt' tactical system.

Interesting to note that while Rappan played only in the first game of the final, his deputy in the Vienna leg was Edi Frühwirth, himself to become a famous manager.

First round: Slavia-Ferencvaros 2-2 0-1 — Sparta-Vienna 2-1 3-2 — Genova-Rapid 1-1 1-6 — Ujpest-Ambrosiana 2-4 4-2 1-1 3-5. **Semi-finals:** Ambrosiana-Sparta 2-2 1-6 — Rapid-Ferencvaros 5-1 0-1. **Final:** Sparta-Rapid 0-2 2-3.

Rapid: Bugala — Schramseis, Cejka — Rappan (Fruhwirth 2nd leg), Smistik, Wana (Maydlmayr) — Kirbes, Wesselik, Kaburek, Luef, Wessely.

1931: The Austrian grip on the Mitropa tightened with 1st FC Vienna beating neighbours WAC in the final. Vienna thus became the first — and so far only — team to take the Mitropa by winning all their games. The final was described by observers as a demonstration of the highest possible skill — football which only Viennese players could produce. How times have changed!

WAC had an eventful time reaching the final. They beat Bocskay of Hungary easily enough in the first round, then fell on Sparta. The Czechs won the home first leg 3-2 and, in exchange for half the receipts of the second leg plus all costs, persuaded WAC to play the second leg in Prague as well. WAC didn't live up to their side of the bargain by storming to a 3-0 half-time lead, and though Sylny hit a hat-trick to pull Sparta level, Hiltl hit the winner for WAC in the dying minutes. WAC then won the play-off 2-0 to enter the final.

Vienna's stars were centre forward Gschweidl and left back Pepi Blum. Though Gschweidl led the line he won most of his caps for Austria as inside left because of the concurrence with FK Austria's Mathias Sindelar. Pepi Blum, a robust left back, was the first Austrian to reach 50 internationals.

First round: Vienna-Bocskay 3-0 4-0 — Slavia-Roma 1-1 1-2 — Juventus-Sparta 2-1 0-1 2-3 — WAC-Hungaria 5-1 1-3. **Semi-finals:** Vienna-Roma 3-2 3-1 — Sparta-WAC 3-2 3-4 0-2. **Final:** FC Vienna-WAC Vienna 3-2 2-1.

1st FC Vienna: Horeschofsky — Rainer, Blum — Schmaus, Hoffmann, Machu — Brosenbauer, Adelbrecht, Gschweidl, Togel, Erdl.

1932: Vienna were there again, so were Sparta and Slavia, and previous Hungarian winners Ujpest and Ferencvaros — the latter having just won the championship without dropping a point.

Italy's challenge was spearheaded by a Juventus on their way to a run of five consecutive league wins, yet it was unfancied Bologna who took the Mitropa to Italy for the first time, without even having to play the final!

In the semi-finals Bologna were drawn against holders Vienna, Juventus against Slavia. In the first leg Bologna won 2-0 with goals from Maini and the Uruguayan, Sansone. But in the return *Azzurri* stalwart Eraldo Monzeglio gave away a penalty by handling, and after Schonwetter converted the spot kick it took a brave defensive display for the Italians to oust the holders, and enter the final for the first time at the first attempt.

In the other semi-final Italian hopes of a domestic final were dashed when Juventus crashed 4-0 in Prague thanks to the indulgence of a weak Austrian referee. In the return in Turin they put two quick goals past Slavia's great goalkeeper Frantisek Planicka however and a remarkable upset appeared on the cards. The Czechs started kicking and the fans grew more and more enraged. Eventually stones were thrown, the crowd invaded the pitch. Planicka took a blow on the head from a missile, and Slavia scurried off. It took 1,500 police hastily reinforced by soldiers to stop the mob breaking down their dressing room door.

Despite appeals from the Italians, Slavia refused to continue the game, but had to wait hours in their dressing room before the angry scenes subsided. The Mitropa Cup committee held both Slavia and Juventus equally responsible and kicked them out of the competition.

Bologna thus took the final on a walkover, but no-one can gainsay their right to the trophy. Apart from beating holders Vienna in the semi-final, they had thrashed Sparta in the first round. In the first leg Bologna led 4-0 at half-time thanks to goals from Reguzzoni, Maini two and Schiavio. The Czechs lost Belgian star Raymond Braine, who was sent off in the 52nd minute, and Baldi hit number five from a free kick in the 68th. In the return Oldrich Nejedly scored a hat-trick for Sparta, but their 3-0 win wasn't enough.

First round: Slavia-Admira 3-0 0-1 — Bologna-Sparta 5-0 0-3 — Juventus-Ferencvaros 4-0 3-3 — Vienna-Ujpest 5-3 1-1. **Semi-finals:** Bologna-Vienna 2-0 0-1 — Slavia-Juventus 4-0 0-2 (suspended). **Final:** Bologna walkover.

Bologna (usual line-up): Gianni — Monzeglio, Gasperi — Montesanto, Baldi, Martelli — Maini, Sansone, Schaiavio, Fedullo, Reguzzoni.

1933: Of all the names associated with the Mitropa Cup, the greatest is that of Fussball Klub Austria. They provided the basis for Meisl's Wunderteam, with strength and skill in defence provided by Walter Nausch — sadly he would miss the 1934 World Cup because of injury — and the ultimate in skill and finesse in attack from Mathias Sindelar, probably the finest continental centre-forward pre-war.

Sindelar had a fine shot but preferred the more artistic approach to goal. He had modelled himself on the great Hungarian Kalman Konrad and was nicknamed *Der Papierene* — the Man of Paper — because of his slim build. Born in 1903, he joined Austria from Hertha Vienna in 1923 and went on to win 44 caps.

Sindelar had been an established hero in Vienna since hitting a hat-trick against Hungary in a 5-1 win in 1929, and he was his club's inspiration along the path to their first Mitropa success. Surprisingly, considering the fame Austria FK drew from the Mitropa, this was their first attempt on the title. In the first round they beat Slavia 3-0 in the Prater stadium after losing away 3-1, then defeated Juventus 3-0 1-1 in the semi-finals.

In the final their opponents were Ambrosiana, inspired by Giuseppe Meazza, the one-time centre forward turned inside right. Meazza would become one of only two players to appear for Italy in the 1934 and 1938 World Cup winning teams. Three times Italy's top scorer, his example saw Ambrosiana to a narrow 2-1 win in the first leg in Milan.

The return, however, was a different matter. Referee Cejnar sent off two Italians and awarded Austria a controversial penalty. Yet from 2-0 down Inter pulled a goal back with five minutes remaining and a play-off seemed assured. Until, that is, Sindelar controlled a wild clearance near the centre circle, accelerated forward, swayed round three defenders and drove the winner past Ceresoli.

It proved the last kick of the game.

First round: Ujpest-Juventus 2-4 2-6 — Slavia-Austria 3-1 0-3 — Hungaria-Sparta 2-3 1-2 — Vienna-Ambrosiana 1-0 0-4. **Semi-finals:** Ambrosiana-Sparta 4-1 2-2 — Austria-Juventus 3-0 1-1. **Final:** Ambrosiana-Austria 2-1 1-3.

FK Austria: Billich — Graf, Nausch — Majemnik, Mock, Gall (Adamek) — Mitzer, Stroh, Sindelar, Jerusalem (Specht), Vierti.

1934: The success of the first years of the Mitropa led now to expansion. Each country could enter four teams instead of two. Yet the competition was still completed between June and September.

FK Austria failed in their defence, going out to Ujpest in the first round — the first stage of a neat progression. Ujpest then fell to Juventus, who fell in turn to Admira, who went down in the final to Bologna.

The Italians were led again by the veteran centre forward Agiolino Schiavio, the man who only months before had hit Italy's World Cup Final winner in the seventh minute of extra time against Czechoslovakia. Schiavio was a regular scorer, up until the final. He shared in the goals in the quarter final 6-1 hammering of Rapid, and the 5-1 semi-final defeat of Ferencvaros (The Hungarian goal came from Gyorgy Sarosi — more of him later). But in the final against Admira the scoring hero was Carletto Reguzzoni, who scored once in the 2-3 away defeat and grabbed a hat-trick in the 4-1 win in Italy which made Bologna the first club to win the Mitropa twice.

But the most memorable tie of the round didn't involve either of the finalists, but Sparta and Hungaria, in the first round. Sparta won 5-4 at home but lost 2-1 away before winning the play-off 5-2. However Hungaria then protested that under the qualification rules, Sparta's outside right

● *Continued overleaf*

EURO-HISTORY . . . MITROPA CUP . . . continued

Faszinek had been ineligible. The organising committee ordered the tie to be replayed. Remarkably, Sparta and Hungaria each won 2-1 in their home legs, and the sixth match of the series — the play-off — finished 1-1!

By now — July 15 — all the quarter final ties had been completed, with the exception of the one between Hungaria or Sparta and Admira, so it was decided to draw lots. Sparta went through — after a tie which had lasted 540 minutes!

First round: Ferencvaros-FAC Vienna 8-0 2-1 — Kladno-Ambrosiana 1-1 3-2 — Bologna-Bocskay 2-0 1-2 — Slavia-Rapid 1-3 1-1 — Admira-Mapoli 0-0 2-2 5-0 (Zurich) — Hungaria-Sparta 4-5 2-1 2-5 2-1 1-2 1-1 — Austria-Ujpest 1-2 1-2 — Juventus-Teplice 4-2 1-0. **Quarter-finals:** Ferencvaros-Kladno 6-0 1-4 — Ujpest-Juventus 1-3 1-1 — Bologna-Rapid 6-1 1-4 — Admira-Sparta 4-0 2-3. **Semi-finals:** Ferencvaros-Bologna 1-1 1-5 — Admira-Juventus 3-1 1-2. **Final:** Admira-Bologna 3-2 1-4.

Bologna: Gianni — Monzeglio, Gasperi — Montesanto, Donati, Corsi — Maini, Sansone, Schiavio, Fedullo, Reguzzoni.

1935: This was the year Sparta were possibly at their best, with the Belgian Braine — who died recently — the organiser of the attack and Oldrich Nejedly the best finisher.

Nejedly was a World Cup star in 1934 and 1938 — when his leg was broken in a battle with Brazil. All in all he won 44 caps for Czechoslovakia and his left-wing partnership with Antonin Puc was perhaps the best in Europe. Nejedly's rise to fame was so swift that he made his international debut only six weeks after joining Sparta from Rakovnik! His left wing partner with Sparta was Geza Kalocsai, a Hungarian who played both for his native and adopted countries while studying law in Prague. Later he became a highly respected coach.

With seven full and four B internationals, Sparta were virtually unstoppable. And even when Juventus forced them to a semi-final play-off the Czechs won that easily enough by 5-1. In the final Sparta lost 2-1 away to Ferencvaros, but won the return 3-0. Even Gyorgy Sarosi, who had earlier won a personal duel with Sindelar in the semi-final against FK Austria, was helpless.

The competition saw 153 goals in 32 matches — almost five a game!

First round: Admira-Hungaria 3-2 1-7 — Viktona Plzen-Juventus 3-3 1-5 — Vienna-Sparta 1-1 3-5 — Ujpest-Fiorentina 0-2 3-4 — Rapid-Zidenice 2-2 2-3 — Roma-Ferencvaros 3-1 0-6 — Szegned-Slavia 1-4 1-0 — Ambrosiana-Austria 2-5 1-3. **Quarter-finals:** Hungaria-Juventus 1-3 1-1 — Sparta-Fiorentina 7-1 1-3 — Zidenice-Ferencvaros 4-2 1-6 — Slavia-Austria 1-0 1-2 3-5. **Semi-finals:** Sparta-Juventus 2-0 1-3 1-5 — Ferencvaros-Austria 4-2 2-3. **Final:** Ferencvaros-Sparta 2-1 0-3.

Sparta: Klenovec — Burger, Ctyrocky — Kostalek, Boucek, Srbk — Faszinek, Zajicek, Braine, Nejedly, Kalocsai

1936: The Mitropa was growing ever more popular. Now Switzerland were allowed to enter four clubs — one of them Grasshoppers — though their early defeats meant that the Swiss entry in future would be restricted to two.

There was also a record crowd in the final when the two giants of the era, Sparta and FK Austria, met head-on. Some 60,000 saw the 0-0 draw in the Prater stadium in Vienna. They thought Sindelar and Co had missed their chance, but in fact they sneaked a 1-0 win in Prague to join Bologna on the list of double winners.

Even Burger, Sparta's World Cup full back and captain, admitted afterwards that Austria deserved their triumph.

Nausch was still in defence for Austria, while left back was Karl Seszta, a tough regular with the Wunderteam who also scored some useful goals with his head. Seszta ended his career having played 43 times for Austria and three times for Greater Germany after the *Anschluss*.

Preliminary round: Zidenice-Lausanne 5-0 1-2 — Young Fellows-Phobus (Hun) 0-3 2-6 — Bern-Torino 1-4 1-7 — Austria-Grasshoppers 3-1 1-1. **First round:** Hungaria-Vienna 0-1 1-5 — Zidenice-Ambrosiana 2-3 1-8 — Sparta-Phobus 5-2 2-4 — Rapid-Roma 3-1 1-4 — Admira-Prostejov (Cz) 4-6 3-2 — Torino-Ujpest 2-0 0-5 — Bologna-Austria 2-1 0-4 — Ferencvaros-Slavia 5-2 0-4. **Quarter finals:** Vienna-Ambrosiana 2-0 1-4 — Austria-Slavia 3-2 0-1 — Sparta-Roma 3-0 1-1 — Prostejov-Ujpest 0-1 0-2. **Semi-finals:** Ambrosiana-Sparta 3-5 2-3 — Ujpest-Austria 1-2 2-5. **Final:** Austria-Sparta 0-0 0-1.

FK Austria: Zohrer — Andritz, Seszta — Adamek, Mock, Nausch — Riegler, Stroh, Sindelar, Jerusalem, Vierth.

1937: One of the greatest of pre-war footballers was Dr Gyorgy Sarosi. A doctor of law, he represented Hungary in several different sports. Beginning in football as a centre half (in the days when centre halves were exactly that) he later switched to centre forward with huge success.

In 1936 he scored all five goals in Hungary's 5-3 defeat of Austria, and a year later scored seven against Planicka and Czechoslovakia in an 8-3 win. Altogether he scored 42 goals in 66 internationals, captaining Hungary to their first World Cup Final defeat by Italy in Paris in 1938. Afterwards Ambrosiana offered £6,000 — then a staggering amount — but though he didn't move then to Italy he met some success there later as a coach.

Sarosi's club, as we have seen, was Ferencvaros, and it was his genius which guided them to the 1937 Mitropa victory.

The Mitropa make-up was amended again. This time Austria, Italy, Hungary and Czechoslovakia were allowed three teams, Switzerland two and Yugoslavia returned through the participation of Gradjanski, with Venus Bucharest providing the first Rumanian step into the Mitropa.

Austria were favourites to land a third win, but they blew their chances through complacency after beating Ferencvaros 4-1 in the first leg of the semi-final. Thinking they were virtually assured a place in the final, they sat back in defence in Budapest, were far too casual, and paid the penalty with a 6-1 defeat. No-one knew it at the time, but Sindelar and his great team had played their last game in the Mitropa. . . .

Ferencvaros found as opponents in the final the unlikely Lazio of Rome. They had got in through the back door, because Admira and Genova had both been kicked out. At the Vienna first leg of the Admira-Genova tie, there were rowdy demonstrations in protest at the Italian government's decision to ban the second leg on security grounds. The game finished 2-2, but the Mitropa committee decided that Admira, because of their fans, and Genoa, because of their government, should pay a high price. According there was no-one to face Lazio in the semi-finals and they went straight through to lose a thrilling final 2-4, 4-5 to Sarosi's Ferencvaros.

First round: Slavia-Ferencvaros 2-2 1-3 — Vienna-Young Fellows 2-1 0-1 2-0 — Bologna-Austria 1-2 1-5 — Venus-Ujpest 4-6 1-4 — Admira-Sparta 1-1 2-2 2-0 — Genova-Gradjanski 3-1 3-0 — Hungaria-Lazio 1-1 2-3 — Grasshoppers-Prostejov 4-3 2-2. **Quarter finals:** Ferencvaros-Vienna 2-1 0-1 2-1 — Austria-Ujpest 5-4 2-1 — Lazio-Grasshoppers 6-1 2-3 — Admira-Genova 2-2 (return not played). **Semi-finals:** Austria-Ferencvaros 4-1 1-6 — Lazio walkover. **Final:** Ferencvaros-Lazio 4-2 5-4.

Ferencvaros: Hada — Tatrai, Koranyi — Mayda (Hamori), Polgar, Szekely (Lazar) — Tanzer (Biro), Kisz, Sarosi, Toldi, Kemenyi (Gyetvay).

1938: On March 12, 1938, German troops poured over the southern border into Austria.

The *Anschluss* was soon fact and the Austrian nation swallowed up into Greater Germany. There were no exceptions for any organisations. Even Austrian football was taken over — indeed Rapid Vienna would become 1941 German champions. Though an Austrian championship continued as part of the German regional league system, and though Rapid were 1938 winners, there was no question of the Germans being allowed into the Mitropa and therefore the Austrian clubs were finished with the competition too, for the time being.

The great days of the Mitropa would shortly start to fade, but there was one club who, despite their efforts to make the Mitropa such a success, had never won it: in 1938 Slavia Prague put that right.

Rumania and Yugoslavia each increased their entry to two clubs to help cover for the absence of the Austrians, while the Swiss, acknowledging the way the political winds were blowing, pulled out altogether of their own will.

(Interesting to note that one of the Hungarian teams was Kispest, later to become Honved).

The Italians were confident of providing the winners, but both Ambrosiana and Genova went out to Slavia, and Juventus fell to defending champions Ferencvaros in the semi-finals.

Slavia's victory over Ambrosiana was the most remarkable. Against the club who, when they reverted to the name Internazionale, would boast an impregnable defence, Slavia hit nine goals without reply in Prague. Admittedly they did gain a few gifts from 32-year-old Giuseppe Peruchetti, in the Ambrosiana goal, but Slavia were unstoppable. It was a bitter experience for Italy's Locatelli, Meazza and Ferrari so soon after they had helped win the World Cup!

In the final Slavia faced Ferencvaros, seeking to become the first club to claim not only a third Mitropa win but to successfully retain the Cup. Tradition would not be mocked however. Slavia won 2-2, 2-0. It was a just reward for Slavia and their Glasgow-born manager, Harry Madden. They had dominated their domestic championship and boasted some spectacular forwards. Their reserve strength was so great they didn't even miss the injured Antonin Puc, the man who had put Czechoslovakia ahead in the 1934 World Cup Final against Italy in Rome.

His place in the Mitropa-winning side was taken by Rudolf Vytlacil, a Viennese by birth, but who played for both Austria and Czechoslovakia beofre turning to coaching. Vytlacil would take Czechoslovakia to the 1962 World Cup Finals, and little-fancied Bulgaria into the 1966 finals tournament.

The star of the team, however, was another Vienna boy, Joseph 'Pepi' Bican. Born in 1913 Bican provoked an argument which lasted years — who was better, Bican or Sindelar? Hans Pesser, who played alongside both, said always that Bican was famous for his shot. He practised by shooting bottles off the top of a crossbar and joined Slavia after fleeing the Germans in 1938. In Vienna, his club had been Rapid, for whom he made a

notable debut at 18 — scoring a hat-trick in 28 minutes and four goals in all in a 5-3 win over FK Austria.

Yet manager Edi Bauer dropped him for the next match because he didn't think Bican — whose parents were Czech — strong enough to maintain that sort of form. Bican later played successfully alongside Sindelar in the Wunderteam, and was capped for Czechoslovakia after going to Prague.

In Planicka Slavia had been exceptionally well served in goal for years, and at half back in addition to Vlasta Kopecky, who played in the 1938 World Cup, boasted the thoughtful Ferdinand Daucik. Later a famous coach in Spain, Daucil fled Hungary with son-on-law Ladislav Kubala in 1948 and managed the brilliant Barcelona team in the early 1950s.

First round: Kladno-HASK Zagreb 3-1 2-1 — Zidenice-Ferencvaros 3-1 0-3 — Genova-Sparta 4-2 1-1 — Beogradski-Slavia 2-3 1-2 — Hungaria-Juventus 3-3 1-5 — Ujpest-Rapid Bucharest 4-1 0-4 — Ambrosiana-Kispest 4-2 1-1 — Ripensia Temesvar (Rum)-Milano 3-0 1-3. **Quarter finals:** Ferencvaros-Temesvar 5-4 4-1 — Juventus-Kladno 1-2 2-1 — Slavia-Ambrosiana 9-0 1-3 — Genova-Rapid Bucharest 3-0 1-2. **Semi-finals:** Genova-Slavia 4-2 0-4 — Juventus-Ferencvaros 3-2 0-2. **Final:** Slavia-Ferencvaros 3-2 2-0.

Slavia: Boskai — Cerny, Daucik I — Prucha, Daucik II, Kopecky — Horak, Simonek, Bican, Bradac, Vytlacil.

1939: Already the shades of war were pulling down the shutters on the Mitropa. Only eight clubs now — two from Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Italy, one each from Rumania and Yugoslavia. The competition dates were kept tight because it was realised that if the Mitropa Cup were to take place at all it would have to be quick!

Ferencvaros reached the final for the third year in succession, but it was neighbours Ujpest who took the trophy in the last pre-war final, inspired by the brilliant young Gyula Zsengeller, who had sprung to fame by hitting a hat-trick against Sweden in the 1938 World Cup.

First round: Venus Bucharest—Bologna 1-0 0-5 — Ferencvaros-Sparta 2-3 2-0 — Beogradski-Slavia 3-0 1-2 — Ambrosiana-Ujpest 4-2 1-7. **Final:** Ujpest-Ferencvaros 4-1 2-2.

Ujpest: Sziklay — Futo, Fekete — Szalay, Szucs, Balogh — Adam, Vincze, Zsengeller, Kallai, Chodlics.

THE POST-WAR ERA

THE effects of the second world war were catastrophic as far as the Mitropa was concerned. The Iron Curtain came down with a crash, leaving Austria and Italy in the West, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia in the East. The cold war meant the Mitropa concept was abandoned until, in 1951, an attempt was made at a relaunching under the title Zentopa (for Zentraleuropa) Cup.

Dynamo Zagreb, Lazio, Wacker and Rapid Vienna took part, but it wasn't the real thing thought Rapid thought it appropriate that they should beat Wacker in the Final. A new generation of players was rising, including Rapid defenders Ernst Happel and Gerhardt Hanappi, but it wasn't until 1955 that a Mitropa Cup committee was reformed under the presidency of Austria's Egon Selzer.

Austria, Italy Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Yugoslavia were each granted two entrants and the competition was played out in the close season between June 29 and August 4. The crowds were tremendous. Some 683,000 saw the 20 matches, with a top crowd of 75,000 in Budapest's Nep stadium for the semi-final first leg in which Honved beat Voros Lobogo (Red Banner, formerly Hungaria, later MTK and MTK/VM) by 5-2.

Honved were at their strongest with Grosics, Puskas, Kocsis, Czibor and Bozsik but it was their partner from the great national team, Nandor Hidegkuti, who stole the show. Under his leadership Voros Lobogo crushed Honved 5-1 in the return and went on to become the first post-war Mitropa winners, beating UDA Prague (later Dulka) 6-0, 2-1 in the final. Some 70,000 saw the first leg in Budapest.

But already the Mitropa was becoming a second class citizen. The European Cup was just beginning and several countries failed to persuade their champions to take part in the old Mitropa, heralding the present era when the competition is very much for the also-rans.

At least there were no problems with refereeing. Senior men such as Jonni and Pieri (Italy) and Fritz Seipelt (Austria) saw to that!

The coming of the Champions' Cup destroyed any chance of the Mitropa reassuming its previous importance. With Austrian football slipping sadly it was left to the Hungarians to dominate the post-war years. Several times the format was amended and in 1958 it wasn't even held because of the World Cup. The lack of continuity didn't help re-establish the reputation.

1955: Prelim. round: Voros Lobogo-Wacker 3-3, 2-2, 2-2 — Vojvodina-Roma 4-1, 5-4. **First rnd:** Honved-Wiener SK 5-2, 5-4 — Voros Lobogo-Hajduk Split 6-0, 2-3 — Vojvodina-Slovan 0-0 0-3 — Bologna-UDA Prague 2-4 0-3. **Semi-finals:** Honved-Voros Lobogo 5-2 1-5 — UDA-Slovan 0-0 2-2 2-1. **Final:** Voros Lobogo-UDA Prague 6-0 2-1.

1956: First rnd: Rapid Vienna-Slovan 3-0 1-3 — Red Star Belgrade-Voros Lobogo 1-1 3-5 — Wacker-Partizan 1-1 1-1 0-4 — Vasas-UDA 2-0 2-2. **Semi-finals:** Rapid-Voros 3-3 4-3 — Vasas-Partizan 0-1 6-1. **Final:** Vasas-Rapid 3-3 1-1 9-2.

Vasas: Kamaras — Karpati, Kontha, Sarosi — Bundszak, Berendi — Raduly, Csordas, Szilagu, Teleki, Lelenka.

1957: First rnd: Rapid-MTK 1-1 3-3 4-1 — Vasas-Vienna 3-0 1-2 — Red Star-Dukla 1-1 1-1 1-0 — Slovan-Vojvodina 1-0 0-6. **Semi-finals:** Vasas-Red Star 3-1 3-2 — Rapid-Vojvodina 3-0 1-4 (Rapid withdrew). **Final:** Vasas-Vojvodina 4-0 1-2.

Vasas: Kovalik — Karpati, Kontha, Sarosi — Szilagy I, Berendi — Raduly, Teleki, Szilagy II, Bundszak, Lelenka (Csordas 2nd leg).

1958: No competition

1959: First rnd: Wiener AC-Honved 2-1 0-7 — MTK-Dynamo Prague (ex Slavia) 5-0 2-4 — Vojvodina-Vienna 1-0 3-3 — Banik Ostrava-Partizan 1-1 2-3. **Semi-finals:** Honved-Partizan 3-3 2-2 (toss of coin for Honved) — MTK-Vojvodina 0-0 2-1. **Final:** Honved-MTK 4-3 2-2.

Honved: Farago — Toricsik II, Torocsik I, Dudas — Bozsik, Kotasz — Budai, Kazinczy, Tichy, Gilicz, Szilasi (Csinos).

1960 (New format: five nations provided six teams each who each played home and away against one other club — points were added up in a 'national club' system): Fiorentina-Ujpest 1-0 0-2 — Hajduk-Bologna 3-1 1-0 — Austria-Udinese 0-2 4-2 — Ferencvaros—Simmering 1-2 5-1 — Wiener SK-Dukla 2-1 1-2 — Banik-OFK Belgrade 2-1 2-3 — Partizan-Slovan 2-1 1-4 — Sarajevo-MTK 1-2 1-2 — Vienna-Vasas 2-3 1-3 — Tranava-Roma 2-0 0-1 — Linz ASK-Spartak Sokolovo (ex Sparta) 1-3 1-3 — Velez Mostar-Alessandria 4-1 2-1 — Vojvodina-WAC 2-2 5-0 — Palermo-Diosgyoer 1-2 2-0 — Tatabanya-Red Star Bratislava 2-1 3-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	12	8	1	3	25	16	17
Yugoslavia	12	7	1	4	26	18	15
Czechoslovakia	12	6	1	5	24	18	13
Italy	12	4	0	8	12	20	8
Austria	12	3	1	8	17	32	7

1961 (New format again; this time three groups of four teams, with the three group winners plus the most successful runner-up going onto the semi-finals)

Group one: Austria 2, Sparta 1 — Sampdora-Bologna 1-1 — Austria-Sampdoria 5-2 — Bologna-Sparta 3-1 — Bologna-Austria 2-1 — Sampdoria-Sparta 1-1. **Winner:** Bologna. **Group two:** Torino-SVS Linz 5-3 — Slovan Nitra-Red Star Brat. 4-3 — Nitra-Torino 5-1 — Red Star Brat.-Linz 8-2 — Linz-Nitra 4-4 — Red Star Brat.-Torino 4-2. **Winners:** Nitra. **Group three:** Wiener Neustadt-Linz ASK 4-1 — LASK-Udinese 2-2 — Kladno-Neustadt 5-0 — Udinese-Neustadt 4-1 — Kladno-LASK 1-1 — Udinese-Kladno 3-2. **Winners:** Udinese. **Best runners-up:** Kladno. **Semi-finals:** Bologna-Kladno 1-0 2-1 — Nitra-Udinese 4-3 1-1. **Final:** Bologna-Nitra 2-2 3-0.

Bologna: Rado (Cimpiel 2nd leg) — Lorenzini, Pavinato — Furlanis (Tumburus), Taverna, Rossini (Fogli) — Perani, Franzini (Rossini), Nielsen, Demarco, Renna (Pascutti).

1962 (New format: **four** groups of four teams this time): **Group one:** Spartak Hradec Kralove-Ferencvaros 2-1 1-0 — Juventus-Dynamo Zagreb 4-1 1-2 — Dynamo-Ferencvaros 2-0 5-1 — Juventus-Spartak 3-2 0-2 — Juventus-Ferencvaros 1-0 1-1 — Spartak-Dynamo 3-2 1-2. **Winners:** Dynamo. **Group two:** Partizan-Banik 2-2 1-1 — Atalanta-MTK 0-0 1-1 — Atalanta-Partizan 3-3 2-2 — MTK-Banik 4-2 1-3 — Banik-Atalanta 0-0 1-1 — Atalanta-Partizan 3-3 2-2 — MTK Banik 4-2 1-3 — Banik-Atalanta 0-0 2-8 — Partizan-MTK 2-1 1-4. **Winners:** Atalanta. **Group three:** Slovan-Honved 1-2 2-1 — Bologna-Red Star Belgrade 2-1 2-4 — Red Star-Honved 1-0 3-2 — Bologna-Slovan 3-0 1-2 — Slovan-Red Star 1-0 2-2 — Bologna-Honved 2-1 5-1. **Winners:** Bologna. **Group four:** Vojvodina-Trnava 0-1 0-0 — Fiorentina-Vasas 0-0 1-3 — Fiorentina-Vojvodina 0-1 2-2 — Vasas-Trnava 5-0 2-2 — Vasas-Vojvodina 3-0 3-1 — Fiorentina-Trnava 4-3 6-1. **Winners:** Vasas. **Semi-finals:** Atalanta-Vasas 1-0 1-3 — Dynamo Zagreb-Bologna 1-1 1-2. **Final:** Vasas-Bologna 5-1 1-2.

Vasas: Szentimihaly — Ihasz, Meszoely, Bakos — Bundszak, Berendi — Kekesi, Pal I, Machos, Farkas, Pal II.

1963 (Back to stage one — eight teams, two from Italy, Hungary and Austria, one each from Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia — in a knock-out tournament): **First rnd:** Bologna-MTK 1-1 0-1 — Torino-Admira 0-1 5-1 — Austria FK-Zeljeznicar 2-0 1-4 — Banik-Vasas 1-1 0-5. **Semi-finals:** Vasias-Torino 5-1 1-2 — Zeljeznicar-MTK 1-1 0-1. **Final:** MTK-Vasas 2-1 1-1.

MTK: Kovalik — Keszei, Danszki, Jenei — Nagy, Kovacs III — Laczko, Vasas, Bödör, Kuti, Szimcsak.

1964: First round: Vasas-SVS Linz 3-1 1-1 — Slovan-Zeljeznicar 3-0 1-2 — Sparta-MTK 3-1 1-1 — Bologna-OFK 1-0 2-2. **Semi-finals:** Sparta-Bologna 3-0 2-2 — Vasas-Slovan 0-2 1-1. **Final:** Sparta-Slovan 0-0 2-0.

Sparta: Kramerius — Kotar, Taborsky — Vojta, Tichy, Steiningl — Dyba, Mraz, Kraus, Masek, Vrana.

1965: Prelim round: Vasas-Sarajevo 2-1 2-0. **Semi-finals:** Vasas-Sparta 5-4 aet — Fiorentina-Rapid 3-0. Third place: Sparta-Rapid 2-0. **Final:** Vasas 1, Fiorentina 0.

Vasas: Varga — Bakos, Meszoely, Ihasz — Matesz, Berendi — Molnar, L. Puskas, Farkas, Fister, Pal.

1966: First round: Slavia-MTK 0-1 2-0 — Admira-Jednota Trencin 2-1 0-4 — Red Star-Napoli 2-0 1-2 — Sarajevo-Wiener SK 2-1 0-3. **Quarter finals:** Slavia-Wiener SK 4-1 1-5 — Red Star-Trencin 1-3 1-0. **Byes:** Vasas, Fiorentina. **Semi-finals:** Fiorentina-Wiener SK 4-2 — Trencin-Vasas 1-0. **Third pl:** Vasas-Wiener SK 4-3. **Final:** Fiorentina-Trencin 1-0.

Fiorentina: Paolicchi — Rogora, Diomedi — Marchesi, Gonfiantini, Pirovano — Hamrin, Vieri, Brugnera, De Sisti, Chiarugi.

1967: First rnd: Tatabanya-Wacker Innsbruck 1-0 2-1 — Cagliari-Sarajevo 2-1 1-3 — Ujpest-Slovan 5-1 1-1 — Vienna-Fiorentina 4-3 1-3 — Dynamo Zagreb-Milan 1-0 0-0 — Slavia-FK Austria 1-2 0-2 — Lazio-Red Star 3-0 1-2 — Honved-Trnava 1-1 0-4. **Quarter finals:** Tatabanya-Fiorentina 1-1 0-1 — Dynamo-Austria 3-3 0-1 — Sarajevo-Ujpest 1-2 1-5 — Lazio-Trnava 1-1 0-1. **Semi-finals:** Trnava-Fiorentina 2-0 1-2 — Ujpest-Austria 3-0 1-2. **Final:** Ujpest-Trnava 3-2 1-3.

Winners: Spartak Trnava.

1968: First rnd: Tatabanya-Inter Bratislava (ex Red Star Brat.) 3-1 0-7 — LASK-Vardar 0-0 1-2 — Ujpest-Wiener SK 6-1 1-1 — Austria-Atalanta 1-2 2-0 — Trencin-Zeljeznicar 0-0 0-1 — Red Star-Diosgyoer 3-0 1-3 — Trnava-Roma 2-1 1-1 — Cagliari-Banik 6-0 2-3. **Quarter finals:** Vardar-Caliari 1-0 1-0 — Austria-Ujpest 2-2 1-4 — Trnava-Zeljeznicar 2-2 1-2 — Red Star-Inter Brat. 3-0 2-3. **Semi-finals:** Ujpest-Red Star 1-0 1-4 — Trnava-Vardar 4-1 2-2. **Final:** Trnava-Red Star 1-0 1-4.

Winners: Red Star Belgrade.

1969: First rnd: Inter Brat.-Palermo 3-0 0-1 — Vasas-Sturm Graz 4-3 2-1 — Hajduk-Banik 2-1 1-4 — Tatabanya-Union Teplice 3-3 0-3 — Wiener SK-Cagliari 1-0 1-2 — Honved-Zeljeznicar 0-10-1 — Vaarder-Admira Energie 2-2 0-3 — Atalanta-Red Star 2-4 1-5. **Quarter finals:** Red Star-Vasas 1-22-3 — Banik-Zeljeznicar 1-1 0-4 — Wiener SK-Teplice 1-1 0-2 — Admira-Inter Brat. 2-2 1-1. **Semi-finals:** Inter Brat.-Vasas 2-2 1-0 — Zeljeznicar-Teplice 1-1 1-2. **Final:** Inter Brat. — Teplice Union 4-1 0-0.

Winners: Inter Bratislava.

1970: First rnd: Internazionale-Vienna 6-1 w/o — Wacker Innsbruck-Csepel 1-2 2-1 (Wacker pens) — Hajduk-Brescia 3-1 0-0 — Honved-Lazio 1-1 2-1 — Vasas-Vardar 1-1 3-2 — Slavia-Verona 4-1 3-0 — Radnicki-Kosice 2-0 0-1 — Admira-Bohemians 2-1 2-1. **Quarter finals:** Slavia-Hajduk 1-1 2-2 (Slavia pens) — Admira-Vasas 0-4 1-3 — Radnicki-Honved 2-1 0-4 — Wacker-Internazionale 0-3 1-0. **Semi-finals:** Slavia-Vasas 1-1 0-1 — Honved-Internazionale 0-1 1-2. **Final:** Internazionale-Vasas 2-1 1-4.

Winners: Vasas Budapest.

1971: First rnd: Vasas-Austria Salzburg 3-1 0-3 — Radnicki-Vicenza 1-0 0-3 — Torino-MTK 1-1 1-2 — LASK-Skoda Plzen 1-1 0-4 — Graz AK-Maribor 2-0 1-3 — Slavia-Csepel 0-2 0-0 — Diosgyoer-Kosice 2-0 0-0 — Celik Zenica-Catania 3-0 0-1. **Quarter finals:** Graz-MTK 0-0 1-2 — Csepel-Plzen 0-0 1-1 — Diosgyoer-Zenica 1-0 1-4 — Vicenza-Salzburg 3-2 1-3. **Semi-finals:** Csepel-Salzburg 2-0 1-4 — Zenica-MTK 1-0 1-1. **Final:** Zenica-Salzburg 3-1.

Winners: Celik Zenica

1972 (New format — this time two groups of three clubs, with the winners playing off for the title). **Group A:**

● Continued on page 49

EURO - RESULTS

compiled by Keir Radnedge

Club matches

THE STRENGTH of West Germany was clearly revealed after the quarter finals of the European club competitions.

The *Bundesliga* had lost only one of its original entries by the time the semi-final draw was made, with Köln surviving in the Champions' Cup, Fortuna Düsseldorf in the Cup-winners, and Borussia Moenchengladbach, MSV Duisburg and Hertha Berlin in the UEFA Cup.

This domination was reflected also in the statistical tables being compiled to produce — from 1980-81 — a fairer method for judging how many countries should be allotted four, three or two entries in the UEFA Cup.

The Germans are far out in front with an annual points average (including bonuses) of nearly 50. Then come Holland and Belgium, with England the strongest challengers in the present 'group of three.'

England's hopes of improving that record took a battering. Four teams went into the last eight, but only Nottingham Forest emerged. Ipswich in the Cup-winners' Cup and Manchester City and West Bromwich Albion in the UEFA Cup all went under.

Albion paid for their lack of European experience in being unable to cope with the way Red Star Belgrade deliberately broke up the pattern of play in the second leg at The Hawthorns.

The biggest surprise was reserved for the UEFA Cup, with Hertha Berlin winning 2-1 away to Dukla Prague in the second leg after drawing at home. Herth are deep in financial trouble but maybe their surprising progress will help.

By far the best crowd of the second legs was the 110,000 who squeezed by fair means and foul into Nou Camp to see Barcelona beat Ipswich 1-0 and go through on the away goal.

Ljungberg celebrates his third goal for Malmo FF against Wisla Krakow.

CHAMPIONS' CUP
Quarter finals, second leg
(March 21 unless stated)

Dynamo Dresden 1 (Riedel 43 penalty)
FK Austria 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 37,000. **Ref:** Keizer (Holland)
FK Austria 3-2 on agg.

Pre-war greats FK Austria followed up their Cup-winners' successes of last season, when they reached the final, to go into the Champions' last four. They hit a sticky patch after half-time, when the East Germans were lifted by Riedel's penalty — given for a foul on him by Robert Sara — but held out bravely.

Grasshoppers 1 (Sulser 29 pen)
Nottingham Forest 1 (O'Neill 33)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 17,800. **Ref:** Menegalli (It)
Forest 5-2 on agg.

After their late recovery in the first leg, Forest were always favourites to go through. Grasshoppers made a lively start, with Claudio Sulser wasting a good 12th-minute break and converting a penalty for a foul on Egli by Anderson, but it didn't take Forest long to hit back.

With goalkeeper Roger Berbig hesitating, Martin O'Neill struck in a Tony Woodcock cross to equalise just four minutes after Sulser's goal.

In the second half Shilton made good saves from Sulser and Raimundo Ponte — a player who impressed Brian Clough — but Forest weathered the squall with little difficulty.

Clough said he was pleased to get away without injuries, but a booking collected by Viv Anderson threatened to prove a problem, for it was his second of the competition and meant an automatic ban for the first leg of the semi-finals. Also booked were Archie Gemmill and Grasshoppers' Heinz Hermann, for his continuous ill-treatment of Woodcock.

Malmö FF 4 (Ljungberg 67 pen, 72, 89 pen, Cervin 82)
Wisla Krakow 1 (Kmiecik 56)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,469. **Ref:** Eschweiler (WG)
Malmö 5-3 on agg.

A second English manager found his way into the last four in the shape of Bob Houghton, but his Swedes left it late. Wisla, 2-1 up from the first leg, went further ahead before Malmö got a grip. Hero was Anders 'Puskas' Ljungberg, with a hat-trick.

Rangers 1 (McLean 86)
1st FC Köln 1 (Müller 49)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 44,000. **Ref:** Franco Martinez (Spain). Played March 22.
Köln 2-1 on agg.

The match was postponed a day because of snow and though Rangers battled away when it did go ahead, they were short on fire-power. Urquhart headed over and he and MacDonald had shots blocked in a goal-mouth scramble in the first half, but Köln — having to reshuffle their pack after injury to Gerd Strack — missed the best chance when Roger Van Gool went clear. Deiter Müller was ever-dangerous. He forced a good save from McCloy before putting Köln ahead after a Konopka free-kick and Rangers' belated reply, through a Tommy McLean free-kick, was far too late.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP
Quarter finals, second leg
(March 21)

Barcelona 1 (Migueli 39)
Ipswich 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 110,000. **Ref:** Azim-zade (Russia)
Barcelona on away goal – 2-2 on agg.

Before a crowd producing record receipts in Spain of £450,000, Barcelona were better winners than the scoreline suggests. From the opening moments they had Ipswich reeling and it was remarkable they didn't score several more goals.

In the 19th minute Hans Krankl hit a post after a mistake by the half-fit Kevin Beattie and Migueli blasted the rebound straight at goalkeeper Paul Cooper.

In the 37th minute came the vital goal. Beattie headed a Krankl drive off the line and away for a corner. Francisco Martinez took the kick, Krankl headed down and Migueli made it 1-0.

In the second half Wark, with a lob too high, and Beattie, with a header too high, had the only chances which fell to Ipswich while Cooper had to make another brilliant stop from Krankl, who was linking superbly with winger Juan Carlos Heredia.

Banik Ostrava 4 (Rygel 15, 87, Albrecht 44, Nemec 52)
Magdeburg 2 (Sparwasser 69, Pommerenke 86)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Carpenter (Rep. Ire.)
Banik 5-4 on agg.

The Czechs moved on into their first European semi-final thanks to a late goal from defender Rygel when it looked as if the East Germans, past winners of the Cup-winners' Cup, might just sneak through on the away goals rule.

Beveren 1 (Stevens 85)
Internazionale 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 23,500. **Ref:** Daina (Swz)
Beveren 1-0 on agg.

The Italian fans were furious after this defeat, since Inter were temporarily down to 10 men when Bob Stevens forged his way through the rain and snow to score the only goal of the tie. Inter had defended solidly throughout, with only a Carlo Muraro break, which forced a good save from Pfaff in the eighth minute, to trouble the Belgian defence.

Full back Baecke was wide just before and afterwards, despite Beveren's concentrated efforts, it wasn't until Stevens stabbed in Hofkens's short cross that their positive approach brought its deserved reward.

Servette 1 (Andrey 80)
Fortuna Düsseldorf 1 (Bömmer 34)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 23,000. **Ref:** Wright (N. Ire.)
Fortuna on away goal – 1-1 on agg.

Servette appeared to be well placed for a semi-final berth after the first half-hour. They had gone close in the 22nd minute, forcing Daniel to a fine save from an Elia header, and Fortuna had now lost the dangerous Klaus Allofs because of injury.

However, in a sudden reversal of the game, Fortuna went ahead when Rudi Bömmer beat Karl Engels with a header from a corner, and the Swiss went to pieces. Trinchero had to clear off the line in the 36th minute and the Germans gained swiftly in confidence.

Servette battled away in the second half. A Hamberg goal was refused for offside, Barberis brought the crowd to its feet with a shot that flew just wide, and Schnyder might have had a penalty, but Fortuna staggered through.

Not bad for a club who qualified as beaten Cup finalists — since German winners Köln had also taken the double and opted for the Champions' Cup.

UEFA CUP
Quarter finals, second leg
(March 21 unless stated)

Dukla Prague 1 (Nehoda 20)
Hertha W. Berlin 2 (Agerbeck 32, Milewski 58)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Foote (Scot)
Hertha 3-2 on agg.

Hertha's disinterest was clear from the way they nearly decided to send a team of reserves while leaving the first teamers to fight their way up the Bundesliga and hopefully improve their troubled cash situation.

Dukla, whose home form had impressed Everton and Stuttgart in previous rounds, duly went ahead through Nehoda but Hertha pulled level through 22-year-old Dane, Henrik Agerbeck.

With the Czechs failing to put their game together the winner arrived in the 13th minute of the second half — Holger Brück and Erich Beer setting up the chance for Jürgen Milewski. The Czechs were so startled they put up little fight in the closing stages.

MSV Duisburg 1 (Büssers 36)
Honved 2 (Karalyos 85, Pal 88)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 23,000. **Ref:** Rainea (Rum)
Duisburg on away goals – 4-4 agg.

Honved left their fightback too late. Despite two goals in the last five minutes they had let their chance slip in Budapest.

West Bromwich Albion 1 (Regis 40)
Red Star Belgrade 1 (Sestic 88)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 31,110. **Ref:** Scheurell (EG)
Red Star 2-1 on agg.

Red Star went through as the only non-West German semi-finalists of the UEFA Cup thanks to a late breakaway which saw Milos Sestic ride two tackles and go through to beat Tony Godden while the rest of Albion's defenders were caught far up in attack.

For much of the time little was seen of the Yugoslav attack. It was all Albion. Tony Brown forced two good saves from goalkeeper Stojanovic and a last-ditch clearance from Jurisic and though Sestic was just too high in the 25th minute, Albion didn't heed the warning.

They ploughed back into attack and after Laurie Cunningham was just wide Cyrille Regis put Albion ahead, turning quickly as Ally Brown headed on a Brendan Batson cross.

For all their pressing Albion had fewer openings in the second half, as Red Star, by fair means and foul, did everything they could to halt the flow of the game. Regis was just wide in the 60th minute, but a bad back-pass from Batson which gave Sestic another chance was merely a harbinger of the decisive 88th-minute kill.

Borussia Moenchengladbach 3 (Kulik 44, Bruns 51, Del'Haye 71)
Manchester City 1 (Deyna 79)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Dias Correia (Portugal)
Borussia Mg 4-2 on agg.

Struggling Manchester City were soon in trouble. Allan Simonsen had a first-minute goal disallowed for offside then missed two easy chances.

But Borussia struck back in determined style to go ahead through Christian Kulik.

Honved-Sparta 3-2 2-1 — Honved-Zenica 3-0 0-3 — Zenica-Sparta 2-0 2-0. **Group B:** Fiorentina-Vienna 3-0 2-1 — Partizan-Vienna 3-0 4-1 — Fiorentina-Partizan 3-0 1-2. **Final:** Zenica-Fiorentina 0-0 1-0.

Winners: Celik Zenica.

1973: Group A: Zenica-LASK 2-0 3-1 — Brno-LASK 3-1 1-1 — Zenica-Brno 2-1 2-1. **Group B:** Bologna-Dynamo Zagreb 2-2 1-3 — Tatabanya-Dynamo 1-0 0-1 — Tatabanya-Bologna 3-0 2-1. **Final:** Tatabanya-Zenica 2-1 2-1.

Winners: Tatabanya.

1974: Group A: Vorwerk Bregenz-Vicenza 0-0 1-3 — Tatabanya-Bregenz 5-2 1-0 — Tatabanya-Vicenza 1-0 1-1. **Group B:** Videoton-Sarajevo 3-1 1-3 — Videoton-Jednota Zilina 3-0 1-5 — Zilina-Sarajevo 4-0 3-3. **Final:** Tatabanya-Zilina 3-2 2-0.

Winners: Tatabanya.

1975: Group A: Tatabanya-Rijeka 3-1 3-1 — Innsbruck-Rijeka 3-1 0-0 — Innsbruck-Tatabanya 4-1 1-0. **Group B:** Honved-Fiorentina 2-0 0-0 — Fiorentina-Teplice 2-1 0-2 — Honved-Teplice 4-2 2-0. **Final:** Innsbruck-Honved 3-1 2-1.

Winners: Innsbruck.

1976: Group A: Ferencvaros-Brno 7-1 2-3 — Brno-Innsbruck 4-3 1-1 — Innsbruck-Ferencvaros 1-0 2-0. **Group B:** Austria-Perugia 1-2 2-1 — Perugia-Velez Mostar 2-4 0-0 — Velez-Austria 2-0 1-2. **Final:** Innsbruck-Velez Mostar 3-1 3-1.

Winners: Innsbruck.

1977 (New format; four clubs only playing a home-and-away league system): Fiorentina-Vojvodina 0-0 2-4 — Sparta-Vasas 2-0 0-2 — Vasas-Fiorentina 1-0 1-2 — Vojvodina-Sparta 2-1 0-0 — Fiorentina-Sparta 3-0 0-2 — Vasas-Vojvodina 3-2 2-2.

Winners: Vojvodina Novisad.

1978: (Back to the two mini-leagues). **Group A:** Partizan-Brno 5-1 4-1 — Brno-Perugia 0-0 0-1 — Perugia-Partizan 2-1 0-4. **Group B:** Honved-Vojvodina 6-0 1-2 — Rapid withdrew. **Final:** Partizan 1, Honved 0.

mitropa winners: — 5 Vasas Budapest. 3 Bologna, Sparta Prague. 2 Celik Zenica, Ferencvaros, FK Austria, Innsbruck, Tatabany, Ujpest, Voros Lobogo/MTK. 1 Fiorentina, Honved, Inter Bratislava, Partizan, Rapid, Red Star, Slavia, Trnava, 1st FC Vienna, Vojvodina.

CONCLUSION

THE story of the Mitropa is a clear one. It began as a far-sighted idea, was a tremendous success for a dozen years until war changed the political and social shape of Europe. After that it was for others to recreate the dream in different, grander ways, thanks to the increased facility of air travel.

Perhaps it should be appropriate then, that two of the great names of the early Mitropa

● *Continued from page 47*

should have died as the competition's greatness faded.

Hugo Meisl was one. He had never been of robust health, and he died in 1937 at 48. Perhaps he was fortunate in dying before the Nazi takeover in Austria — more fortunate certainly than Mathias Sindelar.

The Man of Paper retired in 1939 and was betrayed to the Nazis as a Jew. Once a sporting hero, he was hounded into a social outcast, and late that same year, reduced to living in a little room at the back of an inn, he turned on the gas and committed suicide.

An era had ended. Admirers of the Mitropa of those days may say it is a pity the competition was not allowed to die with them, seeing the state to which it has been reduced.

But then Mitropa means tradition, and tradition is vital to football. The latter-day renaissance of FK Austria has surely proved the point.

LEAGUE TABLES

SOUTH AMERICAN LEAGUE TABLES

COLOMBIA

"Opening" Professional Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America de Cali	7	4	2	1	5	2	10
Millionarios	6	4	1	1	12	6	9
Quindio	7	4	1	2	13	6	9
Nacional	6	3	2	1	7	5	8
Union Magdalena	7	3	2	2	10	7	8
Junior	7	3	1	3	11	12	7
Cristal Caldas	7	3	0	4	10	11	6
Independ. Santa Fe	7	1	4	2	9	10	6
Cucuta	7	2	2	3	5	8	6
Tolima	7	2	2	3	8	13	6
Pereira	7	3	0	4	9	11	6
Medellin	6	1	3	2	5	6	5
Deportivo Cali	6	1	2	3	7	10	4
Bucaramanga	7	0	4	3	5	9	4

CHILE

"Opening" First Division Championship

After five matches of six — **Group 1:** Universidad Catolica 7 pts, Palestino 6, Wanderers 5, Everton 3. **Group 2:** Union Española 7, Coquimbo 6, O'Higgins and Cobreloa 5. **Group 3:** Concepción 9, Naval 7, Green Cross 3, Lota Schwager 2. **Group 4:** (played 8 out of 10 matches): Universidad de Chile and Colo Colo 14, Aviación 12, Audax Italiano 8, Santiago Morning 7, Nublense 5.

More tables next month

BRAZIL

Carioca League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Flamengo	9	7	2	0	25	4	16
Fluminense	9	6	2	1	25	7	14
Vasco da Gama	9	6	2	1	19	6	14
Botafogo	9	5	2	2	19	5	12
Americano	9	4	2	3	10	16	10
Fluminense Friburgo	9	2	3	4	9	24	7
America	9	2	2	5	8	18	6
Volta Redonda	9	2	1	6	5	16	5
Sao Cristovao	9	1	1	7	3	20	3
Goytacaz	9	1	1	7	4	17	3

CENTRAL AMERICAN LEAGUE TABLES

Mexico

First Division

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monterrey	28	9	11	8	32	30	29
Guadalajara	28	9	10	9	34	40	28
America	28	11	5	12	44	37	27
Atlante	28	6	10	12	38	45	22
Veracruz	28	5	6	17	24	57	16

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Univ. Autonoma	28	14	8	6	59	38	36
Potosino	28	13	5	10	37	52	31
Tampico	28	8	11	9	44	51	27
Leon	28	8	6	14	39	48	22
Jalisco	28	5	9	14	31	36	19

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruz Azul	28	13	10	5	50	25	36
Toluca	28	14	6	8	44	30	34
Puebla	28	11	10	7	38	35	32
Univ. de Guadalajara	28	12	5	11	45	40	29
Curtidores	28	9	7	12	34	38	25

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Univ. de Nuevo Leon	28	14	11	4	47	29	39
Zacatepec	28	11	10	7	42	33	32
Univ. Autonoma de Guadalajara	28	9	12	7	40	33	30
Atletico Español	28	8	8	12	37	48	24
Neza	28	7	8	13	23	38	22

BRAZIL

(Sao Paulo)

Group A	P	F	A	Pts
Guarani	19	24	16	22
Juventus	19	35	27	21
Portuguesa Sant.	19	13	14	21
Palmeiras	17	21	16	18
Paulista	18	10	20	13

Group B	P	F	A	Pts
Corinthians	19	25	20	22
Botafogo R.B.	19	23	19	22
America	19	19	29	15
Noroeste	17	11	20	13
Comercial	18	8	20	13

Group C	P	F	A	Pts
Ponte Preta	19	39	16	29
Francana	19	22	27	19
Marilia	19	23	26	18
Sao Paulo	19	24	26	16
Sao Bento	19	24	30	15

Group D	P	F	A	Pts
Santos	19	25	15	24
Ferroviaria	19	18	14	22
XV de Piracicaba	19	16	16	20
XV de Jaú	19	18	19	16
Portuguesa Desp.	19	19	24	15

SHOP WINDOW

Advertisements from bona fide collectors and non-profit making organisations printed FREE of charge.

I AM A 15-YEAR-OLD boy and I would like to correspond with anyone (preferably 14-16). I am interested in all sports and music. I also would like to exchange photos, etc. Speak Spanish and English. Write to: Guillermo Brea, Los Paraisos 579, 1607-Villa Adelina, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

ENGLISH FAN of Dutch national team and Eredivisie would like to exchange magazines, souvenirs etc, with Dutch fans of English football. My address is: David Kirkley, 26 Beatrice Street, Beechcliffe, Keighley, West Yorks, BD20 6AJ, England.

YOUNG ITALIAN, 24, keen collector of badges, seeks serious correspondents-collectors from Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, Americas, USA, Australia, etc. to increase his own collection. I will answer everybody. Sig. Livio Cima, Via Vittoria Colonna 51, 20149 Milano, Italy.

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COVENTRY CITY programmes for sale, many hundreds, also many aways 1950-1978. Mr Roberts, 21 Hamilton Drive, Studley, Warks.

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15-YEAR-OLD Glasgow Rangers fan seeks pen pals in Europe, especially in Spain, France, Holland and West Germany to exchange programmes and news. Write to Scott Macdonald, 203 Mayfield Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3BD, Scotland. All letters answered.

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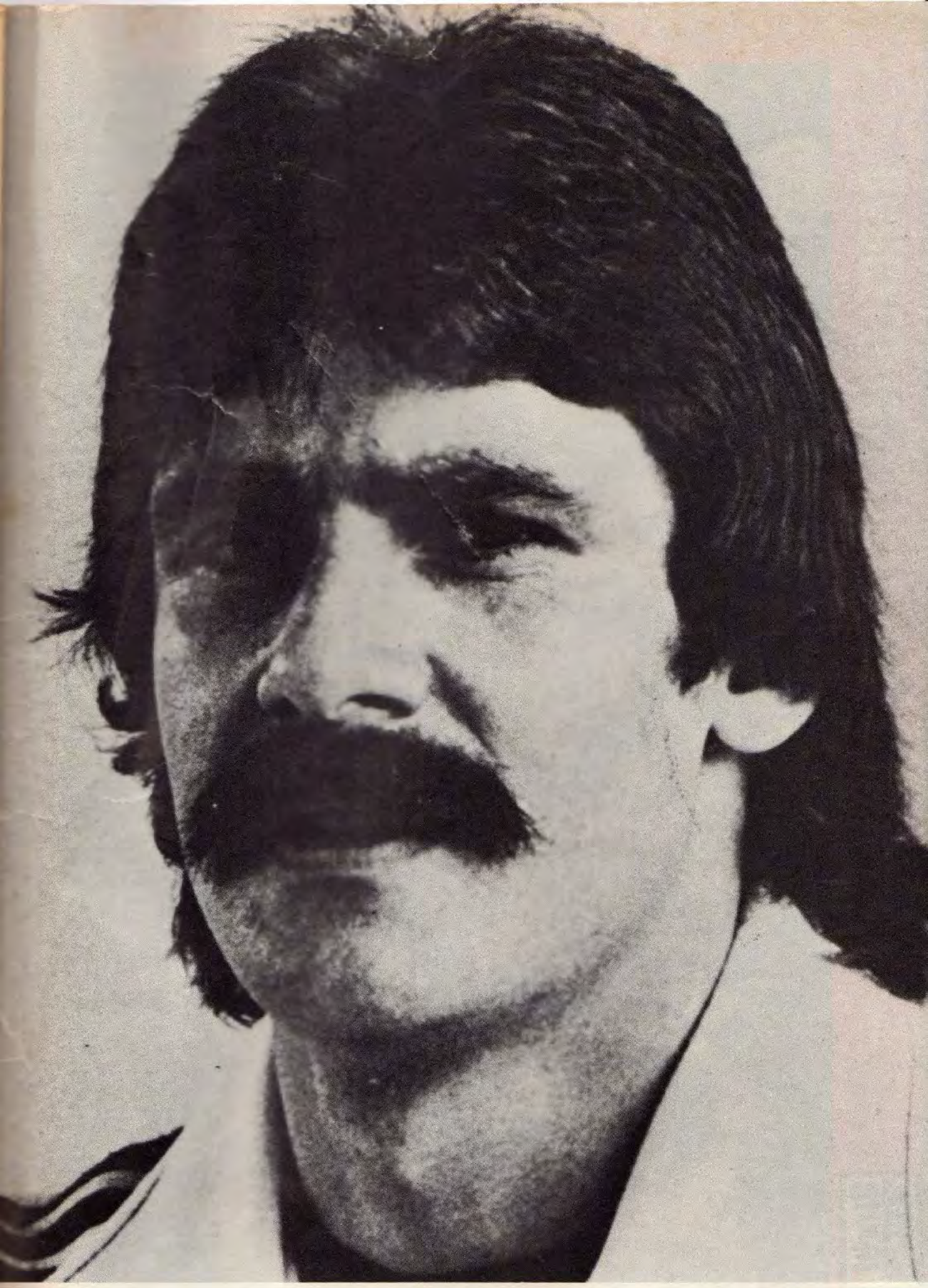

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World SOCCER

BARCELONA

Left to right, standing: Artula, de la Crue, Neeskens, Zuviria, Olmo, Migueli.
Front: Esteban, Heredia, Krankl, Asensi, Martinez.

World SOCCER